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COMMENT OF THE DAY
Big Question Mark

THE deliberations and decisions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Council have largely followed an anticipated course. The appointment of Admiral Lord Mountbatten as overall commander of the Mediterranean had been forecast, as was the even more important decision to concentrate in the immediate future on building up military equipment for existing NATO forces rather than striving to reach difficult manpower targets. Looming over Council's discussions was the dread of member nations having to commit themselves to rearmament programmes that would gravely upset domestic economies. The European countries won their point and resisted the demand that they should place themselves on a semi-war footing. For the most part the Council avoided making any vital long-term decisions, but these will have to be faced next year. The fundamental problem of NATO remains. It is for the West European members to maintain maximum contributions to defence programmes within their economic capabilities, short of going on to a wartime basis.

THE Council could obtain no assurance as to the degree of assistance towards implementation of this policy which might be forthcoming from the new American administration. The next meeting of the NATO Council will be held in the coming Spring, and for many members it will be awaited with some anxiety. It will signal the end of a marking time period and will call for far-reaching decisions, such as the drawing up of economic and military goals for future years. The targets laid down in February of this year at Lisbon definitely have not been reached and a certain amount of resentment exists in the United States over the fact. Rightly or wrongly a growing volume of American opinion is leaning to the view that the European members have not pulled their weight despite substantial US aid, economic and military. Thus the reactions of the new Congress to requests for bigger American assistance when the 14 NATO nations meet again remain a big question mark.

Austerity Programme Approved By NATO Council BETTER, NOT BIGGER FORCES IN 1953

Paris, Dec. 18.

The Atlantic allies will concentrate on better rather than bigger forces in 1953, a NATO communique said tonight, announcing an "austerity programme" worked out by ministers of the 14 NATO countries at a four-day session here.

"Strong defence requires a healthy economy," the communique said. The communique announced an agreement to spend about \$80 million on airfields, communications and jet fuel supplies next year. This slashed about \$70 million off the initial estimate.

Britain had led the campaign for the reduction, which will be achieved by dispensing with the "frills," such as concrete towers. About 35 airfields, which the Supreme Commanders described as essential, are planned.

"For the future, the Council directed that more emphasis should be given to increasing the effectiveness of the forces of the alliance and the units necessary for their support, rather than to the provision of greater numbers to the extent that resources were not available for both tasks," the communique said.

At the last session, held at Lisbon, a tentative target of 70 divisions in 1953 was laid down, but tonight's communique made no mention of a 1953 target. It merely said the Ministers had noted with satisfaction that it was planned to make further individual and collective efforts next year to increase, improve and strengthen "the forces now in being."

The findings of the Ministers will be worked on by the NATO Secretariat and resubmitted to another session of the Ministerial Council here early next spring for final approval. The statement disclosed that General Matthew Ridgway, NATO Supreme Commander, had emphasised that only by continuing to increase his forces would he be able to carry out his responsibilities.

General Ridgway, the communique said, had paid high tribute to the high quality of the forces under his command.

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE
The Ministers approved the strategic guidance given them by the soldiers, taking account of the fact that Greece and Turkey have become NATO members.

"In approving it the Council reaffirmed their determination to defend all the territories and peoples of the North Atlantic area," the communique stated.

Hard bargaining in a committee of Finance and Defence Ministers led to the cut of nearly one-half in the money to

be spent on the airfield and military installation programmes. One delegation said General Ridgway had objected strongly, claiming that the money offered him was not enough to pay for the programme he was asked to achieve.

The United States will pay 32.5 per cent, France ten per cent and Britain seven per cent of the new 1953 construction programme totalling about \$80 million.

The approved total was scaled down from an original proposal by the military of \$150 million, but the Council Chairman, Mr Ole Bjorn Kraft, the Danish Foreign Minister, said the amount approved was estimated to be adequate for the needs of the forces likely to be in the field next year.

Real expenditure on NATO infrastructure next year will be far greater than the \$80 million slice adopted today.

In addition, the Danish Finance Minister, Mr Thorvald Kristensen, Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee during the session, told reporters that there was a great deal of national expenditure on infrastructure which in some countries, including Denmark, was much bigger than the country's NATO share.

Sources close to NATO said tonight that the original estimates for infrastructure to the end of 1952 were \$231,520,000, but the real cost proved bigger and raised the estimates to more than \$278 million. Out of this latter figure actual expenditure had been only \$74,632,000.

REAL EXPENDITURE
It is estimated that in 1953 real expenditure will be \$188,650,000 for the earlier programme and \$80 million for the 1953 programme.

The difference between the original 1953 infrastructure programme of \$150 million and the adopted \$80 million is not taken tragically by any NATO members.

No secret is made of the fact that Ridgway asked for the first figure, but would have been very happy if he had got \$100 million.

During its session today the Council moved a resolution on the economic problems facing member states, which said the governments would seek by individual and collective measures to strengthen their political and economic capacities by solving problems, such as balance of payments, increase of output, internal financial stability and manpower.

The NATO Secretary-General Lord Ismay, tonight confirmed that Lord Mountbatten, newly appointed Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, would be on an equal level with American Admiral Robert Carney, Commander of NATO's Southern Flank.

"Admiral Mountbatten cannot give orders to Admiral Carney in peace or war," he declared.

Some uncertainty had arisen after the British Defence Minister, Lord Alexander, earlier today said Mountbatten would be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of Admiral Carney's 9th Fleet in wartime.

"Co-ordination means fixing it with the other chap," Lord Ismay told reporters amidst laughter.

A SHAPE official said the two commanders would remain "independent and on an equal level" even in wartime.

Mountbatten was formally presented to the Ministers at the last session of the Council. With him were General Ridgway and Admiral Carney.

EASIER TASK
Mountbatten told correspondents afterwards that the takeover would be done at a reasonable pace. Carney said the task in the Mediterranean would be easier now that the new command had been set up.

Comments by the Foreign Ministers of NATO's "Big Three"—the United States, France and Britain—tonight stressed the unity and resolve of the alliance.

Mr. Dean Acheson, who attended his last NATO Council meeting (he resigns when Eisenhower's administration takes over in January), told reporters that all were doing what they could to increase their strength "though it is not as fast as we would like."

"The important thing, however, is that we are going forward and not back," he declared.

Mr. Robert Schuman was asked whether the French government had examined any alternative should the European army treaty not be ratified. He replied: "We are not defeatists. We have envisaged no other possibility."

Mr. Anthony Eden summed up his impressions: "We have been told by Marshal Stalin that his purpose is the division of the allies. I hope this meeting will show that threat. Our unity is greater today than it has ever been before."

He said the meeting would show that threat. Our unity is greater today than it has ever been before.

Gift From Australia



The South Australian branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Air-men's Imperial League of Australia recently sent all the ingredients for the making of a giant Christmas cake, weighing 1½ cwt, for the Chelsea Pensioners. Picture shows Mr C. A. Worth, a Deptford baker, putting the finishing touches to the huge cake which has been made by him and his two brothers.

Clemency For War Criminals Requested

London, Dec. 18. Japan has asked Britain for clemency in the cases of both major and minor war criminals, it was announced today in the House of Commons.

The announcement came when a Conservative Member, Mr Gilbert Langan, asked what Japanese recommendations for clemency had been made and what Britain's answer was.

The Foreign Under-Secretary, Mr Anthony Nutting, in a written reply, said: "In accordance with their right under Article 11 of the Japanese peace treaty, the Japanese government have made recommendations to Her Majesty's Government for clemency for both major and minor war criminals."

"Under the peace treaty, power to grant clemency to Class A criminals—that is, major war criminals—rests with the majority of governments represented on the International Tribunal for the Far East which sentenced them."

"Her Majesty's Government, therefore, replied that this matter was for consideration between the governments concerned."

"As far as minor war criminals are concerned, the power to grant clemency rests with the government or governments which imposed the sentence. The Japanese government have been informed that Her Majesty's Government cannot entertain any general request for clemency, but will examine individual recommendations on their merits."

"In this, Her Majesty's Government are acting in concert with the Commonwealth and other governments concerned."

Serious Floods In France

Paris, Dec. 18. Serious floods are reported from many parts of France today, particularly in Bordeaux where the river Garonne burst its banks and invaded part of the city.

Hundreds of families were evacuated as water swept into a suburb of Bordeaux, while workers strove to plug the dykes.

Danger increased as a high tide rolled up the river estuary. A 12-year-old girl was carried away by the Corréze river as she was crossing a bridge. A 18-year-old boy was swept into the Garonne by a gust of wind as he was cycling along the bank. The situation was reported to be worsening in the mountainous Jura region of the east with melted snow swelling the Saône and Doubs rivers alarmingly.

Gun, Knife, Fists Used In Free-For-All On US Freighter

ATTEMPT TO PROVE WHO WAS TOUGHEST CREWMAN

San Pedro, Calif., Dec. 18.

A military cargo ship bound for the Orient returned to port early today when a gun, knife, and fist fight broke out among three husky members of its crew who "tried to prove who was the toughest."

The freighter, Sea Ranger, turned back from a scheduled voyage to Japan, dropped anchor in Los Angeles harbour and sent out an urgent message saying that there were injured aboard.

Investigators from the San Pedro Marine division of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Coast Guard and the FBI were sent to the ship at once.

They learned from Captain Ray Burns of the Sea Ranger that three of his crewmen had been in a free-for-all shortly after the freighter had left harbour.

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TRAGIC BUS ACCIDENT

Huddersfield, England, Dec. 18. A double-decker bus plunged from a bridge here into the River Trent tonight and a boy and a woman were found trapped between the seats of the lower deck when the vehicle was being removed from the river.

At least four persons were killed and it was feared there would be more victims, although it is not yet known how many passengers were on the bus.

At least two persons were injured.—United Press.

14 INJURED IN EXPLOSION

Tokyo, Dec. 18. The police here reported a total of 14 persons were injured in a coal-bank explosion last night in a Tokyo gas company's factory.

Police said they were still investigating the cause of the explosion which rocked houses within a kilometre radius and broke window panes.—Reuter.

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China Mail Xmas Issue Tomorrow

Tomorrow the China Mail produces its special Christmas issue. It will contain a wide variety of seasonal feature articles. The children's section will have a special appeal for young readers, and housewives are catered for with topical and informative contributions.

The China Mail Christmas issue will be on sale before 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

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ADDED AT THE LEE
LATEST GAUMONT BRITISH NEWS
BRITAIN'S CROWN JEWELS
UK's First Atomic Explosion

Argentine Radicals Arrested

Buenos Aires, Dec. 18. Argentine police today arrested 11 leading members of the Opposition Radical party and charged them with conspiring against the security of the State.
The police said they found arms and ammunition in the arrested men's homes in the province of San Luis.
The police said the Radicals had been charged after they had been taking openly of "imminent revolt."
Among those arrested were a priest, a geologist and several farmers.
The arms haul, the police said, included pistols, two shot-guns, more than 13 pounds of explosives and 100 fuses.
In the province of Buenos Aires, a Radical Deputy, Senator Emilio Mercader, and the editor of a Radical weekly, Senator Ruben Ayala Torres, were detained.
The police gave no reason. — Reuter.

PRAVDA HAS A NEW EDITOR

Moscow, Dec. 18. Dmitri Shepilov, a full member of the Communist Party's new Central Committee, was yesterday made editor-in-chief of the party organ, Pravda, in succession to Mr. L. F. Ilychev.
Mr. Ilychev, an alternate member of the new Central Committee, was last month dropped from the editorial board of the Committee's magazine Bolshevik when it was renamed Communist and a new enlarged board elected. — Reuter.

RED CROSS COMMITTEE ABANDONS PLANS FOR RELIEF IN KOREA

Geneva, Dec. 18. All efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to obtain permission from either the United Nations Command or the Communist authorities of North Korea to assist non-military war victims have failed, the Committee announces in the November issue of its monthly review.
"In the case of North Korea," says the review, "the ICRC received no reply to its various suggestions on the subject of prisoners of war or the victims of the conflict."
"In addition, a stock of medicine built up in Hongkong in March 1951 could not be sent on. The ICRC requested the Chinese Red Cross Society to take over the distribution of these medicines, but the Society did not think fit to accept."

The review says that these medical supplies were eventually taken over by the Hungarian Red Cross Society and were later shipped back to Geneva.
"As regards South Korea," the review goes on, "having been advised of the situation by its delegates, the ICRC could in turn inform various national Red Cross Societies."
"Some of them placed supplies at the Committee's disposal. Within a short time, however, the United Nations reserved its right for relief action in Korea."
"In these conditions, the ICRC made efforts for its special position to be recognised and for it to be agreed that relief supplies entrusted to its care should be distributed under its supervision and by its standards."
"So far it has not been successful."
"The Committee has consequently had to abandon all relief action intended for victims other than prisoners of war, which greatly complicates its activity and that of its delegates particularly in regard to detained civilians."
"In this connection, the ICRC applied on several occasions both to the General Secretariat of the United Nations and the United Nations Command to enable its delegates to extend their activities, particularly in the fields covered by the provisions of the First, Second and Fourth Geneva Conventions."
"These approaches not having had the result hoped for, the delegates were obliged to confine practically all their activities to assistance for prisoners of war."

A spokesman of the International Committee stated that with regard to prisoners of war in United Nations hands, they had received up to the beginning of December this year 210,127 notifications concerning prisoners in South Korea.
ONLY 110 NAMES
All these notifications had been sent on to the North Korean authorities.
The spokesman added that of this total, 44,826 were Chinese soldiers.
He said that reports of 17,096 deaths and 892 cases of seriously ill or wounded prisoners had also been passed on to the Pyongyang government.
With regard to the names of United Nations prisoners of war in North Korea, the International Committee's Review says:
"Reciprocity in the matter, however, proved to be unobtainable. The ICRC has received only two lists concerning 110 United Nations prisoners in North Korea, hands, none withstanding repeated requests." — Reuter.

BBC Service Jammed

London, Dec. 18. The British Broadcasting Corporation's Highbury service has been subjected to jamming during the last fortnight, it was announced tonight.
The Corporation understood reception had been affected to some extent in Israel.
A British Broadcasting Corporation spokesman said it was not yet known who was responsible for the jamming or why it was being carried out, but the Corporation was watching the position. — Reuter.

CHURCH WEDDING AFTER 17 YEARS

Ipswich, Dec. 18. After 17 years of married life, Mrs. Elsie Weeden finally took her husband to her Church for a wedding "in the sight of God."
Other villagers of nearby Withersham were astonished to hear about it today. The original wedding had taken place in a Registry Office.
"The organ played, and I had a nice wedding dress, a bridesmaid and everything," Mrs. Weeden said of her second nuptials when the news leaked out.
They have four daughters—two sets of twins—and did not want to cause gossip about the delayed ceremony, which was held on Sunday.
The happy bridegroom, 41-year-old Desmond, could not have been more gallant had he been 24.
His comment was: "As I waited at the altar and saw my wife advancing up the aisle, I thought she looked just as sweet and charming as she did that other wedding day in 1935." — Associated Press.

Decisive Vote For Unity

The Hague, Dec. 18. Two Dutch towns voted strongly in favour of European unity in the first test poll of public sentiment on the controversial question.
Returns from yesterday's vote showed that 84 per cent of the registered voters in the old trading town of Bolsward voted in favour of a United Europe. In the pottery and university centre of Delft, 70 per cent of the registered voters favoured the idea.
The poll was conducted by the Dutch European Movement, which backs unification. The movement selected the two towns as representative of a cross-section of the Dutch people. — Associated Press.

No Doubt In His Own Mind

Tangier, Dec. 18. John Carter Vincent, U.S. Consular Agent in this international city, said today there was no doubt in his own mind "about my absolute and constant loyalty to the United States."
"The American Minister and former head of the State Department's Far Eastern policy section has been called home after a Loyalty Review Board found there was reasonable doubt as to his loyalty."
"The diplomat did not wish to make any formal statement about the Board's action because it was on a Government level and the facts must be objectively sifted by it." — Associated Press.

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"Super" Deal Over New UN Members?

SIX-YEAR DEADLOCK MAY BE BROKEN

United Nations, Dec. 18.

There were whispers in the United Nations today that the six-year deadlock over the admission of new members might be broken by a "super" package deal.

Several delegations told the United Press that they had some hope, admittedly slight, that agreement might be reached on a procedure for letting in most of the 19 applicant nations.

They do not believe, however, that anything could be accomplished during the waning days of the Seventh General Assembly.

Powerful support has been building for the adoption of the Central American resolution establishing a special 22-member committee to tackle the problem between Assembly sessions. Some delegations feel that the Committee might find workable means for the Security Council to approve pending applications. Japan, which is one of the nations seeking admission, heartily approved of the proposal for a special committee even though it has serious doubts that it will find a practical solution.

The Japanese attitude was made known to the United Press by Minister Ryutoku Tanaka, permanent Japanese observer to the United Nations, who came from Washington to hear the debate on the admission of new members.

Mr. Tanaka also praised the United States' resolution proclaiming Japan as a peace-loving State and urging its speedy endorsement of her application. The American proposal would give important moral backing to Japan's United Nations bid.

GETTING TIRED

Many delegations are growing weary of the stalemate, resulting from the Russian insistence on the admission of five Soviet-sponsored States as the price for the admission of nine other nations.

Unless others accept this so-called package deal, the Soviet Union is apparently determined to continue to veto individual applications as it has already done 27 times.

The United States and other Western countries have so far refused to make a package deal. In addition the United States wants the approval of Spain, Korea, and the three Indo-Chinese States which are not included in the Communist package.

Hope for a "super" package rests on the theory that both the United States and Russia might be willing to give some ground. A United States spokesman told the United Press that while the United States might vote against any such compromise in the Assembly it is committed to the policy of not using its power to blackball new members.

United Nations sources admit that Japan would be the biggest stumbling block to a package deal. The United States has thrown its full weight behind the Japanese application but Russia would probably argue that she is still at war with Japan.

There are some who believe that Russia's price for making peace with Japan would be recognition of the Chinese Communists instead of the Chiang Kai-shek nationalists as China's representative to the United Nations.—United Press.

Czech Note Rejected

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 18.

Israel today rejected Czechoslovak charges of "unauthorised relations" between Israel's Minister in Prague, Mr. Aryeh Koubovi, and persons engaged in espionage against Czechoslovakia.

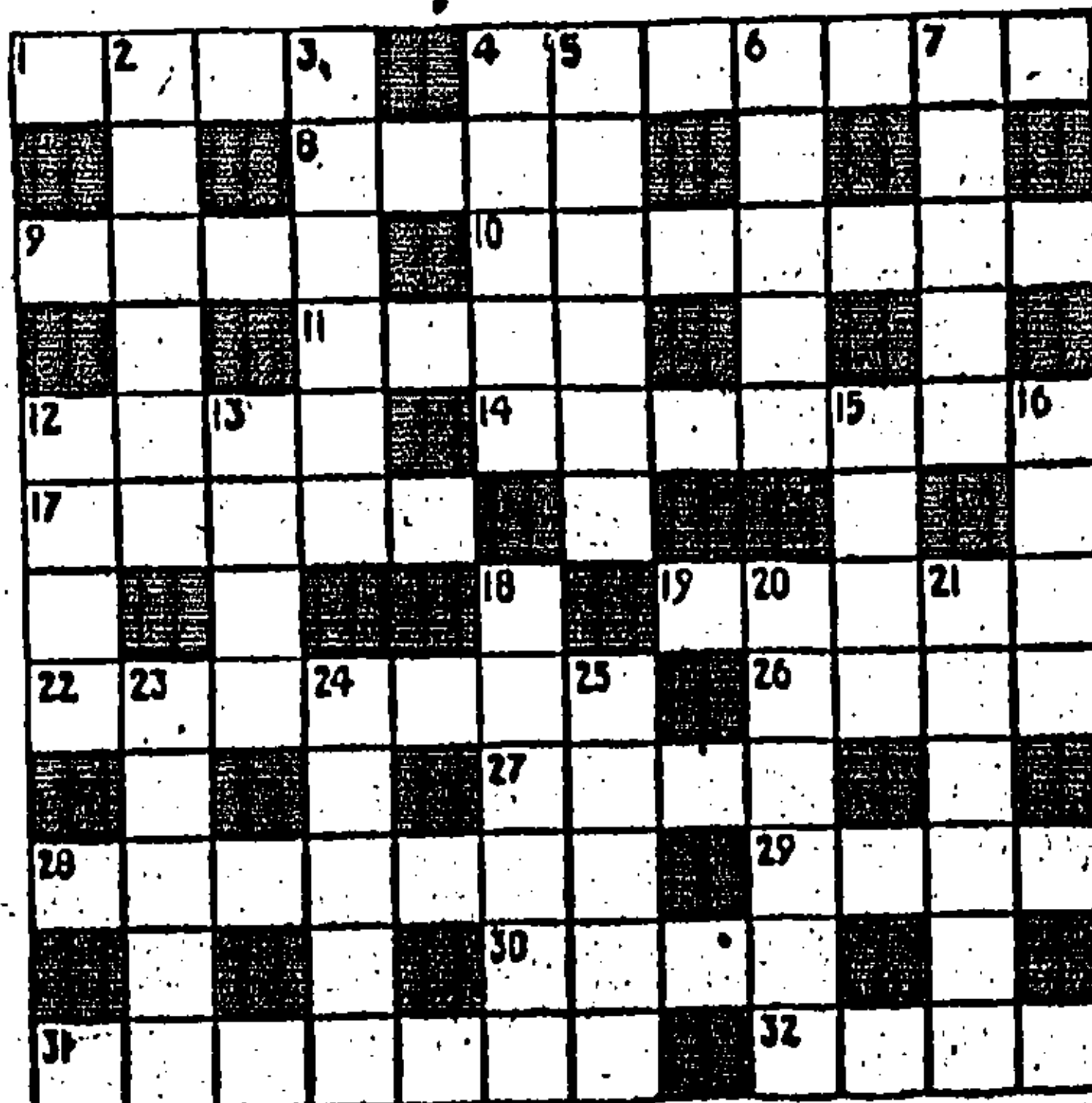
The denial was made in a note handed to the Czech Charge d'Affaires today. "Unreservedly rejecting" a Czech note demanding the recall of Mr. Koubovi, the Israel note refutes point by point Czech charges that Mr. Koubovi had interfered in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs and had engaged in conspiracy with the former Communist leader, Rudolf Slansky, who was executed for espionage earlier this month.

It expresses "amazement and indignation" at some of the features of the Slansky trial, especially its anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli, and "putting anti-Semitic" character.—Reuter.

Taipei, Dec. 18.

Two Formosan farmers were sentenced to five years' imprisonment each on charges of forging banknotes. The sentences were passed by the District Court at Taichung, in Central Formosa.—Associated Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Dross (4).
7 Interferes with (7).
8 Imprinted (4).
9 With the addition of (4).
10 Washing out (7).
11 Set of three (4).
12 Drug (4).
14 Struggles (7).
17 Conscious of (5).
19 False objections (5).
22 Officers (7).
25 Loaned (4).
27 Cereal (4).
28 Small town (7).
29 Hired (4).
30 Despatched (4).
31 Abandoned (7).
32 Strike (6).

DOWN
2 Incorporated (6).
3 Gilt the better of (6).
4 Worth (5).
5 Hatred (6).
6 Believed (5).
7 Colour slightly (5).
12 Crazy (4).
15 Chances-piece (4).
16 Fruit (4).
18 Speeches (4).
19 Fog (4).
20 Christen (6).
21 Fable (6).
23 East away (5).
24 Hord (5).
25 Building-lots (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1 Stream, 5 Dilly, 8 Doyen, 9 Stamen, 10 Laid, 11 Miner, 12 Empty, 13 Tests, 16 Modest, 18 Address, 20 Shred, 22 Agony, 23 Vices, 25 Movie, 28 Curlew, 29 Stubs, 30 Statue, Down: 1 Surpise, 2 Shampoo, 3 Adam, 4 Monitor, 5 Delates, 6 Dunes, 7 Devil, 14 Smeared, 16 Shredded, 17 Deceit, 19 Debris, 21 Heave, 24 Gun.

Anglo-Italian Discussions

Paris, Dec. 18.
The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, had talks on the Trieste problem with the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Alcide De Gasperi, at the Italian Embassy today. Signor De Gasperi leaves Paris by train for Rome later tonight.—Reuter.

Purchase Tax On Cars To Stay

London, Dec. 18.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Richard Butler, in the House of Commons today opposed a reduction in the purchase tax on cars as sought by members of Parliament and the motor industry.

Purchase tax on British cars for home market use is more than 50 per cent on small models, rising in percentage on higher-priced cars.

For example, purchase tax on a car basically priced at £518 is £225. Tax on a model basically costing £2,000 is £1,112.

Mr. M. Edelman, Labour Member for Coventry, asked if Australia had agreed at the Economic Conference to remedy cuts in imports which had been harmful to the British motor industry, and would Mr. Butler, in the three critical months ahead, do everything in his power to use the home market as a buffer against unemployment.

Mr. Butler said the export industry would be kept as first priority. There had been a relaxation of sales on the home market.

On Australian import cuts, Mr. Butler referred Mr. Edelman to the Economic Conference communiqué which said there had been an understanding that restrictions, which had to be put on through necessity, would be raised if the balance of payments difficulties permitted.—Reuter.

Strike Call In France A Failure

Paris, Dec. 18.

French miners today kept nearly all coalfields in high production in spite of a 24-hour nation-wide strike call from the Socialist Union Force Ouvriere, which was opposed by the Communists.

The Communists back substantially the same demands as the Force Ouvriere—higher pay, revised work contracts, and retirement benefits—but they want all the credit for possible success.

The Force Ouvriere is relatively weak among the miners, representing about 10 per cent of a total of 400,000 workers.

Quarriers saw two major motives behind the Communists' decision not to strike. They are:

1. The time was not ripe in view of the failure of Communist strike calls last summer.
2. A desire to discredit the Force Ouvriere and to attract recruits from its thin ranks.—Reuter.

New Cardinal Gravely Ill

Venice, Dec. 18.

One of the 24 new Cardinals appointed by Pope Pius XII to bring the College of Cardinals up to full strength, Archbishop Cardinal Agostino, was reported gravely ill today.

The Archbishop, Patriarch of Venice, was given the last sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church last night at his request.

He is 64 and has been ill for a long time with leukemia. The new Cardinals are to be invested at a Consistory opening in Rome on Jan. 12.—Associated Press.

QUEEN ZAIN IN GENEVA

Geneva, Dec. 18.

Queen Zain, mother of King Hussein of Jordan, flew here today from Paris.

She was accompanied by Prince Hussein, the King's younger brother, and Princess Fatima.

The Queen left immediately by car for the luxury Beau Rivage Hotel at Lausanne, where she will spend some time on holiday.

The 17-year-old King, who later join his mother. He is at present recovering from a sinus operation in London.—Reuter.

IRAQ REJECTS DIRECT TALKS ON PALESTINE

U.N. Scheme "Not Realistic"

United Nations, Dec. 18.

Dr Mohamed Fadhil Al Jamali of Iraq told the General Assembly today that the proposed resolution calling for direct negotiations by the parties to the Palestine dispute "without prejudice," would not lead to negotiations.

He said his Government had sent him instructions to that effect.

The exact resolution which was passed by the Special Political Committee by a vote of 32 in favour, 13 against and 13 abstentions, was opposed by the Arab delegations on the grounds that it did not bind the parties to the dispute to observe the previous United Nations resolutions as a basis for negotiations.

The General Assembly decided recently to debate the question of Palestine in full.

An amendment proposed by the Pakistan delegation in the Assembly would change the operative part of the resolution to read: "Urges the government to enter at an early date, without prejudice to their respective rights and claims, into direct negotiations for the establishment of such a settlement, on the basis of the resolutions as well as the principal objectives of the United Nations on the Palestine question, including the religious interests of third parties, and in particular, the principle of the internationalisation of Jerusalem."

NO CHANGE

Dr Jamali said that a report published in the New York Times recently had attributed to the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. David Ben Gurion, a refusal to repatriate refugees, to maintain territorial concessions or other than frontier adjustments and to internationalise Jerusalem.

"There can be no negotiations on this basis," Dr Jamali said.

The draft resolution, no matter how well-intended, was not realistic, he said.

"We submit that this resolution will not contribute to conciliation because the Arabs, knowing the Zionists' thought and attitude, will not sit down with them unless they find a change of heart and mind—and we have seen no evidence of that," Dr Jamali said.—Reuter.

Delicate Operation Performed

Chicago, Dec. 18.

One of the Siamese twins separated yesterday in a history-making operation was doing badly today and physicians doubted he would survive.

Dr Eric Oldberg of the University of Illinois said the surgeons had to make a choice during the day-long surgical operation yesterday and that Rodney Lee, the smaller of the twins, was given the benefit because he showed the greater chance for ultimate survival.

Dr Oldberg said the surgeons found the twins had only a single fused outer brain covering containing a single sagittal sinus vein that drains blood from the brain back to the heart. Rodney was given most of this brain covering and the drainage vein.

He reported Roger Lee did not do well during the operation and was in shock several times with his condition precarious.

But he also emphasized that surgeons found it would be more difficult to turn the brain covering and sinus over to Roger Lee. Dr Oldberg said the surgeons "more or less went for one" and took a chance on the other.

"You might call it that," he replied.—Associated Press.

Refuses To Withdraw

Washington, Dec. 18.

President Truman today refused to withdraw his criticism of Mr. Eisenhower's trip to Korea as an "act of demagoguery".

At his weekly Press conference he said he had nothing to add and, nothing to take back from what he said last week on the President-elect's trip and the prospects for peace in Korea mentioned by General MacArthur.

He had received no communication, either directly or indirectly, from Mr. Eisenhower or General MacArthur. When asked whether he had expected Mr. Eisenhower to report to him on his trip to Korea, President Truman said he had not expected such a report.—Reuter.

Rebuff For Reds

Vienna, Dec. 18.

School authorities of Klosterneuburg near here, have categorically refused to let pupils to salute Soviet officers in the streets as requested by the Soviet commandant, usually well-informed Austrian sources said today.—Reuter.

New Malaya Police Chief

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 18.

The Federation Government announced tonight that Mr. W. L. R. Carbonell will succeed Colonel A. E. Young as Commissioner of Police in the Federation of Malaya in May when Colonel Young returns to his post as Commissioner of Police in the City of London.

Mr. Carbonell, 46, holder of the King's Police Medal, at present heads the Special Branch of the Federation Police.

His appointment is a complete surprise as he is comparatively junior in service to most Federation senior police officers.

He is now being appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner until he assumes duty as Commissioner when Colonel Young leaves Malaya.—Reuter.

GRAND OPENING SALE



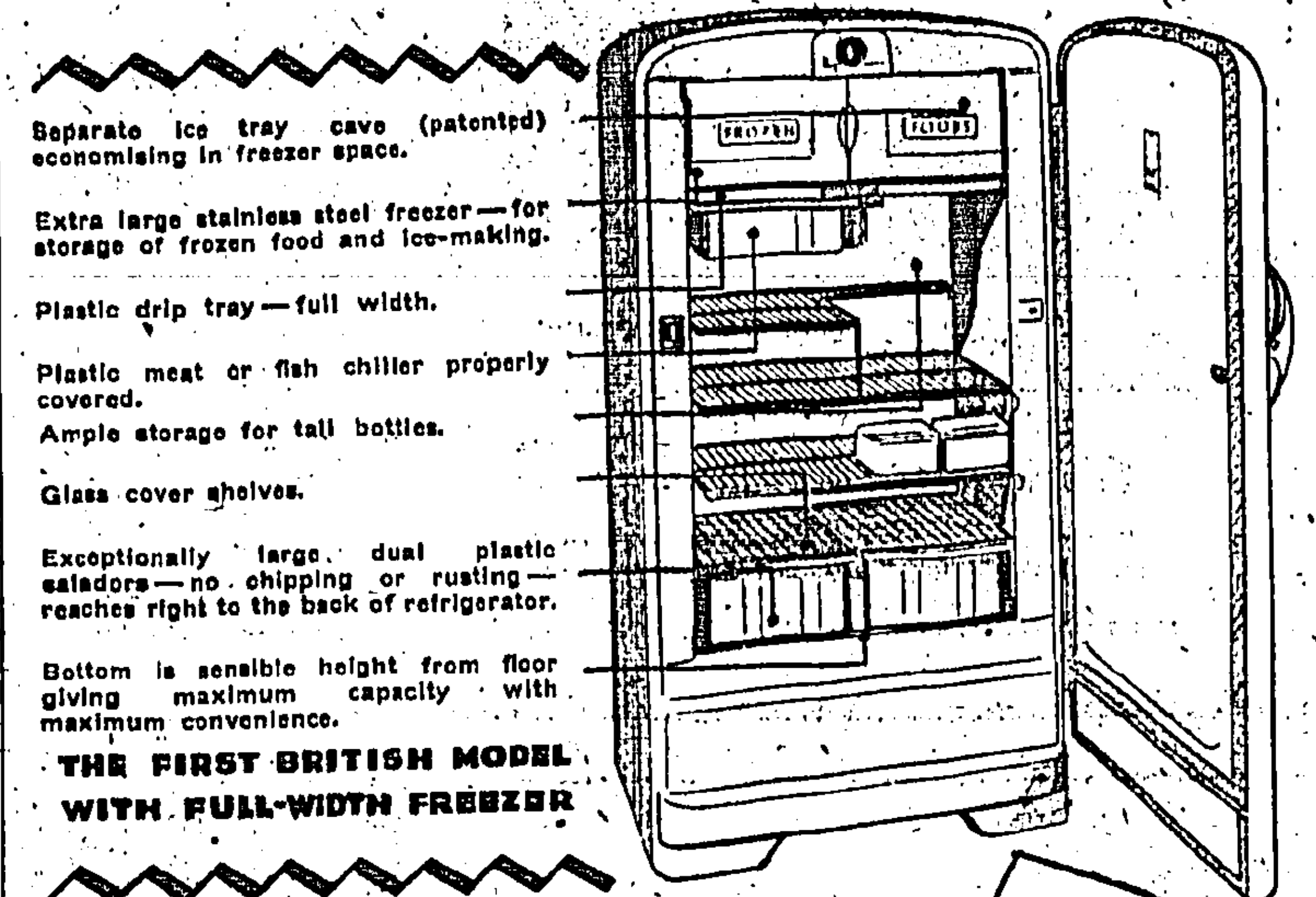
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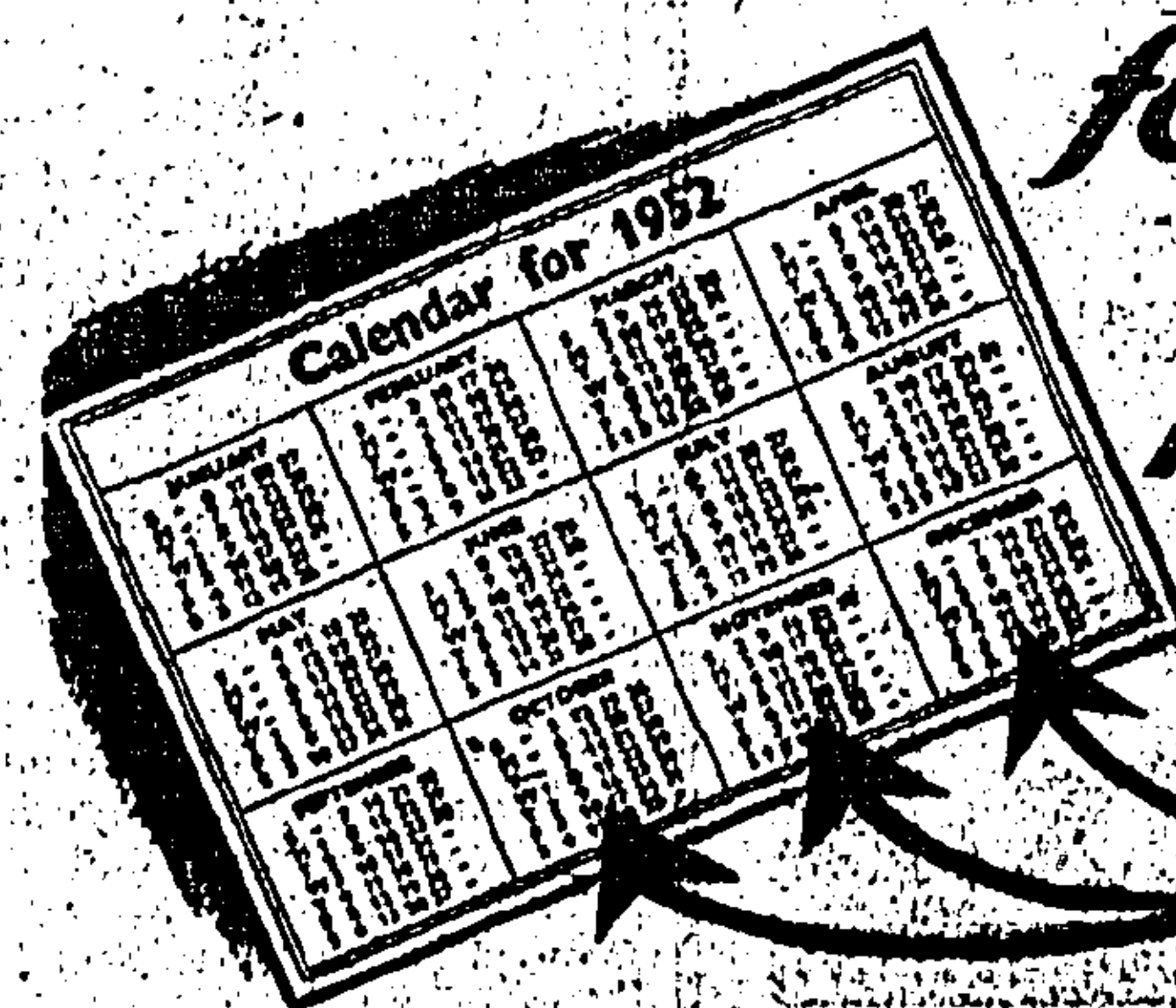
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for winter
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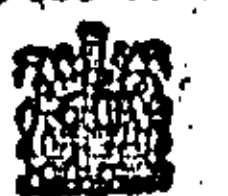
The high quality you enjoy in "Black & White" is achieved by patient years of maturing selected Scotch whiskies and blending them in the special "Black & White" way. Steadily increasing demand for this fine Scotch is the measure of its excellence—and its popularity.



'BLACK & WHITE' SCOTCH WHISKY

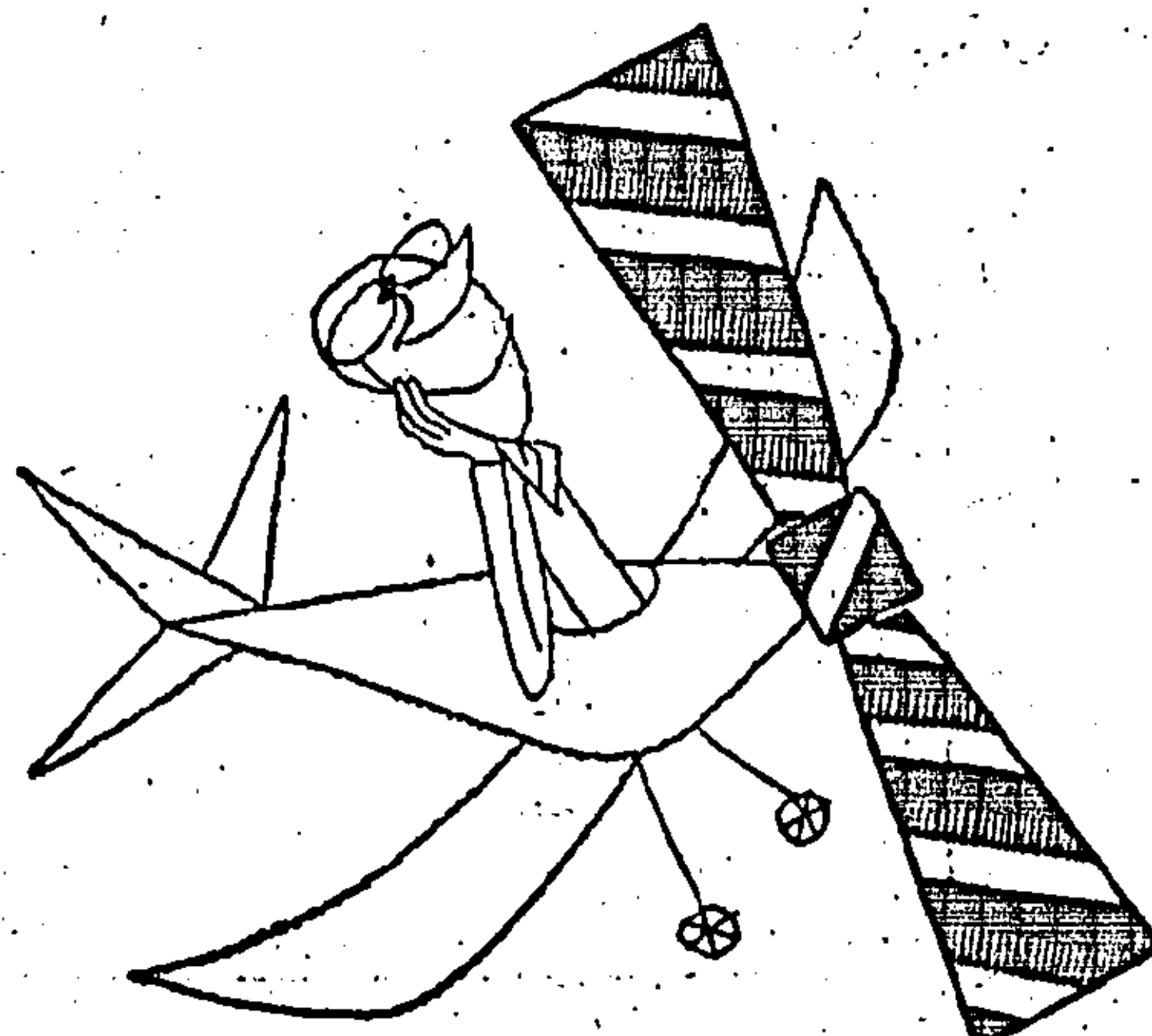
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Obtainable at his favourite outfitter.

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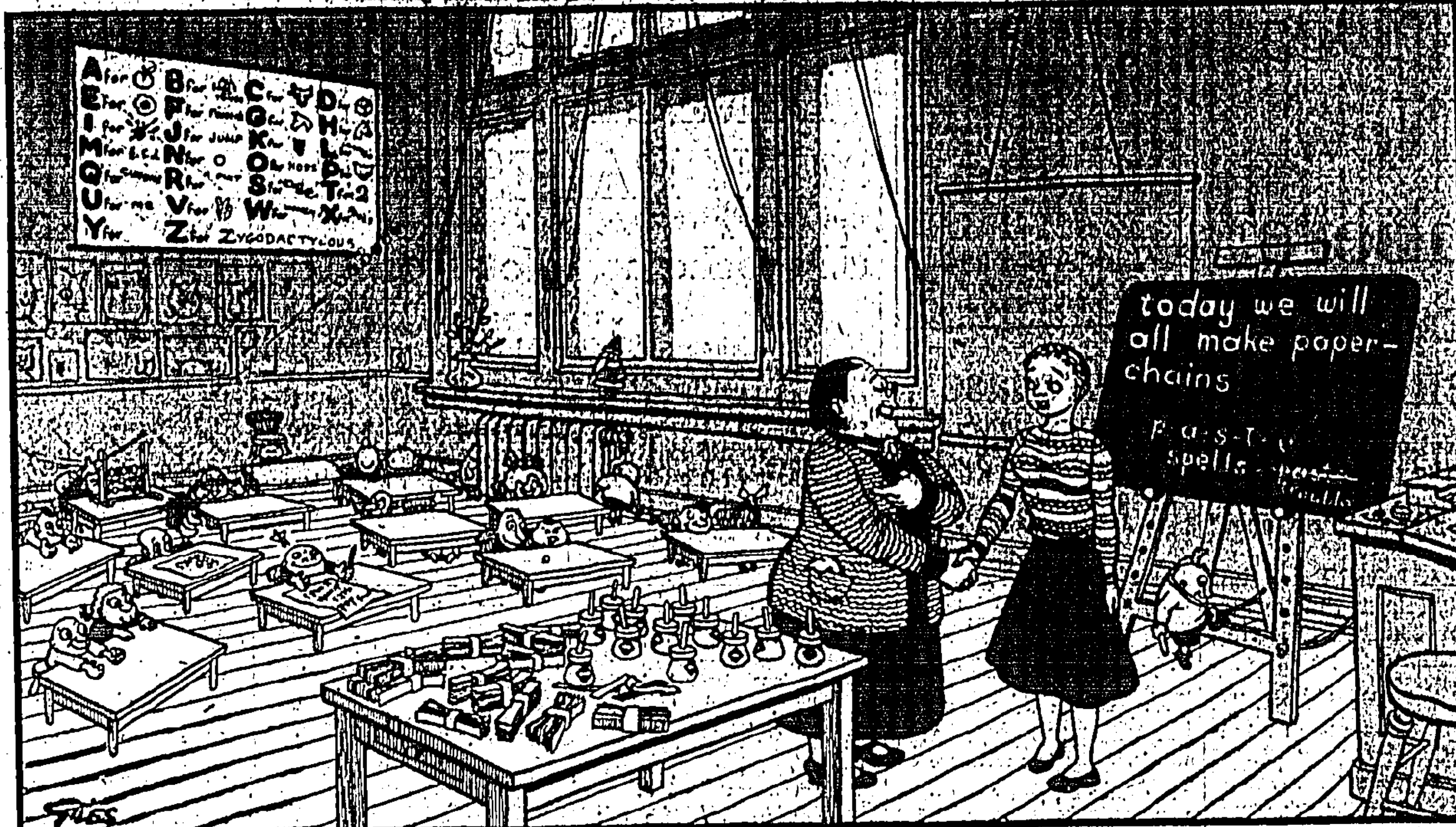
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CONSCRIPTION BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

THE military preparations of the Soviet Union and the satellite in Eastern Europe can hardly be described as purely defensive in either character or scope. In fact, Moscow Radio not long ago asked Communists to support "legal, progressive and inevitable wars." Wars waged by Soviet Russia were described as "the most legal and holy of all wars."

This latter thesis fits into the complex "peace" propaganda jigsaw of the Soviet Union. And it is linked with the "hate" campaign against the West and the campaign against the compulsory military service laws of the North Atlantic Treaty nations. But, as one would expect, the Communists are silent about military service conditions in the countries which they control.

The anti-conscription campaign—inspired by the Kremlin—has met with some success in the West, notably in Belgium. In that country the Communist Party singled out the unpopularity of the two years' conscription decree as a rallying point for "united front" tactics. After a mass strike called by Socialist-led trade unions, the Belgian Cabinet decided that, although the law for two years' compulsory service should not be amended, conscripts would be released after twenty-one months.

Communist tactics directed against conscription—aimed at weakening the military potential of the North Atlantic Treaty powers—stem from a leading article in the Cominform Journal as far back as September 1950. It explained how "the demands for the extension of the peace movement... had the support of the American, British, French, Belgian and Yugoslav youth, who are fighting military service and are protesting against extended service."

This theme has been increasingly used by the Communist parties in Western Europe and America in 1952.

In France, Paul Laurent, Secretary-General of the Communist-dominated Seine

Federation of the Union de la Jeunesse Republicaine de France, had called upon Parisian youth to "redouble its efforts in the struggle against two years' service, by forming action committees everywhere and multiplying the petitions and delegations before the Deputies."

The British Communist Party, too, has attacked the two years' conscription period. The Political Committee of the Party in August 1952 declared: "It is clear that possibilities exist for a broad campaign by the Party and the Young Communist League, especially among the youth and among women, for a reduction of military service by half."

The story is the same in the United States.

Therefore, it is pertinent to ask: what are the facts concerning military service behind the Iron Curtain?

Here is the answer.

Soviet Russia: Universal military service for a period of at least two years.

Poland: Conscripts serve two years and three months, some categories being retained for three years.

Czechoslovakia: Two years' service after a year's pre-military training.

Hungary: Two years' service with provision in the Act to increase it to three years.

Rumania: Two years' service.

Bulgaria: Two years' service.

These facts show that the length of compulsory military service in the Soviet Union and her satellites is not less than in the signatory countries of the North Atlantic Treaty.

But this is not the whole story. It is necessary to examine, and to compare, conditions of military service in the Communist countries and with those in the Western democracies, one must recognise the generally lower standard of living in the Soviet Union and the Russians' unquestioning acceptance of restrictions and hardships

which would be difficult to bear for anyone brought up in the free world.

In the Soviet Union youths are normally called up for military service at the age of 19, but if they have been to a secondary school they go into the Soviet Army, Air Force or Navy a year earlier. In effect, this means that they enter the armed forces straight from school.

Service for privates in the Soviet Army is nominally two years. Many conscripts, however, serve up to five years, and this applies particularly to men who are specialists or have

By
DAVID LAIDLAW

a knowledge of foreign languages.

Non-commissioned officers, in the Soviet Army serve for three years. There is evidence that in the Russian Occupation Forces in Europe, privates are now required to serve three years and non-commissioned officers for four years. Privates of the last age-group, to be released would appear to have been in the Army for four to five years.

The length of service for conscripts in the Soviet Air Force and the Soviet Navy is even longer than in the Army. How men are chosen for these two more technical services is not quite clear. Presumably it is dependent upon their educational standard. If they have been to a secondary or technical school they are drafted into the Air Force or Navy.

Military training is compulsory for all boys in Russia who continue their schooling after the 17th year. Boys remaining at school from 14 to 17 years of age are obliged to undergo two hours' military training each week. Boys at 17 are compelled to attend a 20-day military camp each year.

Conscripts begin their service in the Soviet Army at 19 or, in the case of the better educated, at 18. Service is for a minimum period of five years. Service in the Soviet Air Force is for four years. But before a man can be promoted to N.C.O. rank, he has to re-engage for a further five years

or fifteen years. Few non-commissioned officers in the Air Force are commissioned and promotion in the ranks is very slow. Indeed, it depends more on a man's political views than on his service ability and ex-members of Komsovol (the Communist youth organisation) receive the greatest favours. In fact, on entering the Air Force they are immediately given the rank equivalent to Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force.

Conditions of service in the Soviet armed forces are harsh. The private soldier is paid only 30 roubles a month—about 1s. 9d. a day—until he has served for three years. By contrast a Soviet Major-General serving in Occupied Europe appears to receive the equivalent in pay and allowances of more than £7,000 a year. In the British Army the newly-enlisted conscript is paid 4s. a day if unmarried and 1s. 1d. after 18 months' service. If he should marry during his two years' compulsory service he is given an additional 6s. a day.

But to assess the real value of pay and allowances in the Soviet Army it is necessary to relate them to the cost of living in the Soviet Union and the satellites. For example, in Moscow, even after the recent price cuts, black bread still costs 1s. 4d. a lb. at the official rate of exchange of 11.2 roubles to the £. The price of sugar varies between 9s. and 10s. 8d. a lb., butter from 25s. to 30s. a lb., and tea from at least 25 13s. to £10 15s.

The food of the private soldier in the Soviet Army is very poor, and he has little opportunity to supplement his meagre diet because of his low rate of pay and the high cost of staple foods. He cannot afford even the small luxuries of life. He has to pay from 4s. 7d. to 11s. for 25 cigarettes. His soap costs about 4s. 6d. a tablet. If he is serving in Eastern Germany and wants to buy chocolates, he must pay about 17s. for a 4 oz. bar—his full pay for ten days.

Even these figures do not reflect the true hardship under which Soviet soldiers are serving in Eastern Germany a few months ago it was decreed by Moscow that they should draw only half their pay, the balance being credited to them in the Soviet Union. These Soviet troops thus receive virtually only 10/4d. a day.

When and how they are paid the money is credited to them in Russia is not known. But it is known that they never receive anything from one to two months' pay a year—according to where he is stationed—in non-interest-bearing government bonds. After ten years these may be redeemed for 20 percent of their face value and after twenty years for their full value. In addition the Soviet serviceman must contribute to other State obligations, including a birthday present for Stalin.

Although contributions to State loans, it is argued by the Soviet military authorities, is a form of compulsory saving for servicemen, the men themselves regard such contributions as equivalent to a tax.

Conscripts are lucky if they receive even one period of leave during their service. Men below standard in political or military training are not granted leave. It is not unusual for the soldier or airman to serve for five years in Germany or Austria without any chance to visit his home in Russia. Special leave on compassionate grounds is rarely granted for the first two years of service. Soldiers and airmen are not permitted to leave barracks unless in an organised group under the supervision of an officer or non-commissioned officer.

Nor is the Soviet soldier or airman entitled to local or short leave. There are no 48-hour passes such as those given to servicemen of the Western countries.

If the conditions of service in the Soviet and satellite armed forces were of a high standard, much would be made of them in Communist propaganda to the free world. The almost complete absence of such propaganda is proof that any comparison between service conditions in the Western and Iron Curtain countries would be very unfavourable to the latter.

TREND

James Bartlett previews the news you'll be seeing later in the tall headlines

THE search for the shape of things to come knows no barriers. Trends are as likely to show up first in a beauty parlour as they are in a boardroom. Take this sample:—

Hairstylists are delighted with the new trend to bigger, more elaborate earrings, a fashion unconsciously encouraged by the Queen since she had her ears pierced last year.

The connection is unexpected, but hairstylists see a steady run of business ahead because shorter-hair styles—which are needed to show off the ornaments—demand more frequent visits to the hairstressing shop.

DIVORCE PATTERN

Watch for the changing pattern in divorce suits, still pouring into English courts at the rate of more than 700 cases a week.

Main grounds for divorce, out of every 100 cases, used to be: 1, Misconduct (59 percent); 2, Desertion (39 percent); 3, Cruelty (two percent).

But the end of this year is expected to show a big swing-over in the legal reasons for broken marriages. Desertion will move into top place (54 percent), then misconduct (41 percent), with a more than doubled figure for cruelty (five percent).

Lawyers are pressing for a wider recognition of "cruelty" in divorce to include those cases where a husband's or wife's health is injured indirectly—even unknowingly—by the offending partner.

EXAMPLES: By constant ill-treatment of children, by drug-taking or immoderate drinking, by repeated spells in prison.

OLD—NEW

AMERICANS will be sending over a new decorative idea, in window blinds that has already caught on in more than 5,000 homes in the United States.

It is like the old Venetian blind, smartened up (in a dozen different colours) and turned on its side.

Plastic slats, hanging lengthwise from a horizontal roller at the window top, will be turned either way to direct the light into the room, or overlapped to shut it out.

Or they can be swung either side, and looped like curtains.

STILL LOWER

BRITISH paper-makers have made a fresh move in the German paper-trade war.

They have cut prices of white shoe-box "enamel" to 10s. per ream (about 70 reams go to a ton). But new German paper mill in Saxony, deep inside Russian-occupied zone, is still offering it for 35s. 8d.

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JACOBY ON BRIDGE

How Two, in Three Bids, Went to Seven

By OSWALD JACOBY

TODAY'S hand shows the most startling bid made in the entire national tournament conducted by the American Contract Bridge League a few weeks ago in Cincinnati. Bill Hanna, of Los Angeles, bid a suit for the first time at the grand slam level—with only a singleton in that suit!

North's opening bid of three no-trump was unusual, but not startling. Most experts use such an opening bid to show a balanced hand of tremendous power, but a few experts use the opening bid of three no-trump to show a solid suit with perhaps some slight hole in the trick elsewhere. In other words, the bid is largely gambling and pre-emptive in nature.

Bill Hanna, holding the South hand, decided to add one gamble to another. His partner could probably win seven tricks with his solid suit. The South hand was good for five tricks in spades or diamonds. Hence

NORTH (D) 27
 ♠ 104
 ♥ Q03
 ♦ 4
 ♣ AKQJ052

WEST 87032
 ♠ 84
 ♥ Q0553
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 1098

EAST 1098
 ♠ AK1098
 ♥ J72
 ♦ 10983
 ♣ 10983

SOUTH 1098
 ♠ AKQ05
 ♥ J72
 ♦ AK00
 ♣ 4

Neither side vul.

North East South West
 3 N.T. Pass 3 N.T. (1) Pass
 Pass Double 7 ♣ (1) Pass
 Pass Double Pass Pass
 Opening lead—♠ 4

there would probably be a good play for twelve tricks if the bidding had happened to be favourable, so Hanna took a shot at six no-trump. This was a very bold bid, but it stood in the way of being on lead against six no-trump, and he could see the great king and queen hearts in his hand. So he doubled with great firmness and even greater speed.

Incidentally, this was one of the most unnecessary doubles ever recorded. The opponents were obviously in an awkward contract. East would surely get a fine score for beating six no-trump even if he failed to double. What could he gain by doubling? Maybe he didn't see what he could lose, but he soon found out.

Hanna looked at the South hand and reflected about that double. It certainly sounded ambitious and positive. Evidently East was ready to take the first two tricks against six no-trump. The only hope was that West wouldn't guess the right opening lead.

So South bid seven clubs! Why did he choose clubs? North's opening bid showed a solid suit, and undoubtedly a minor suit. It had to be clubs. And, of course, it was.

West would have been a hero if he had led a heart, but he happened to choose a low spade instead. And Hanna ruled thirteen tricks home with great calm, as though he had grand plans that way every day of the week!

CARD SENSE

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been: North 3 N.T., South West 1 Diamond, 1 Heart, 2 Spades, 3 Clubs, 4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-122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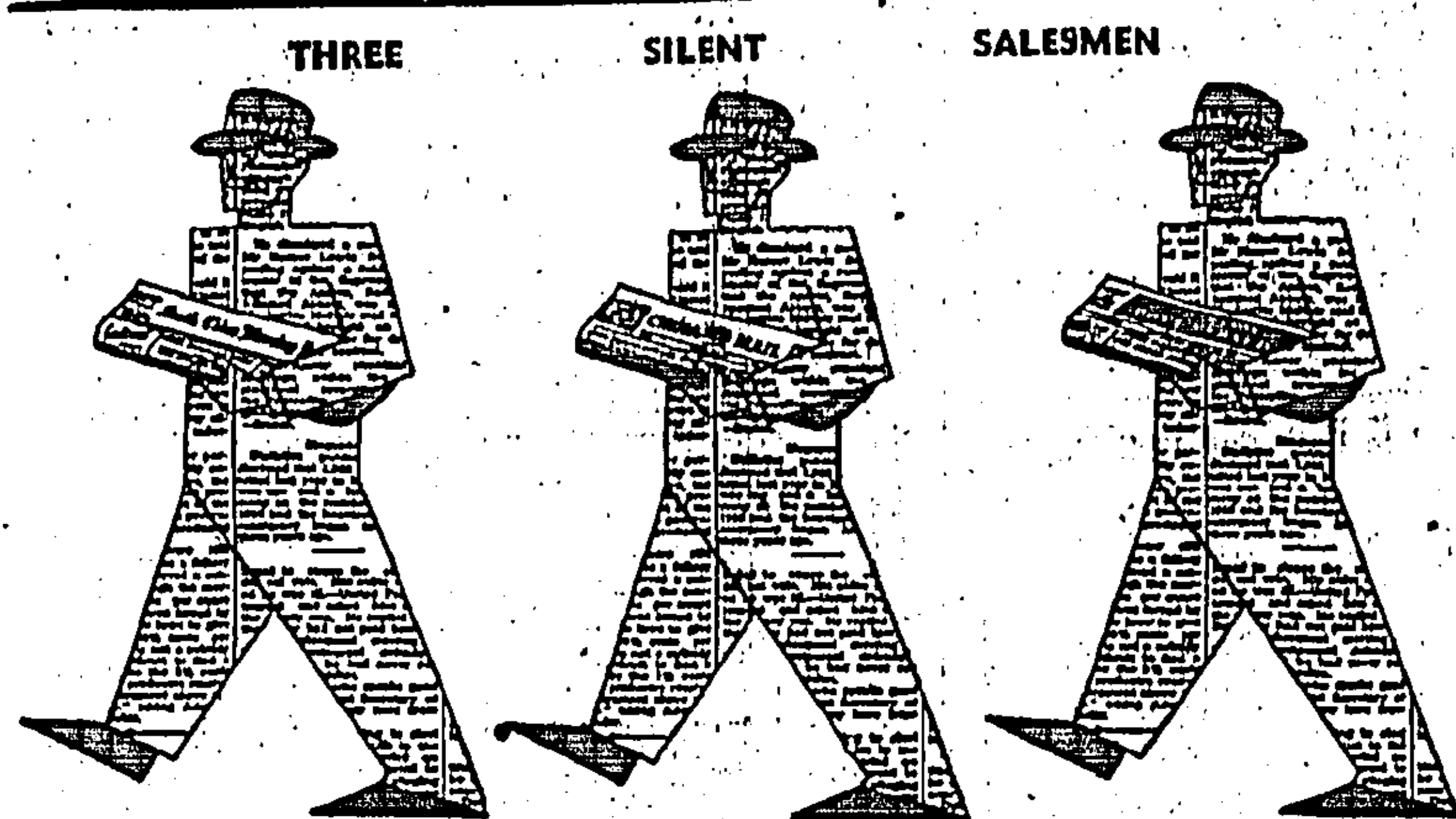
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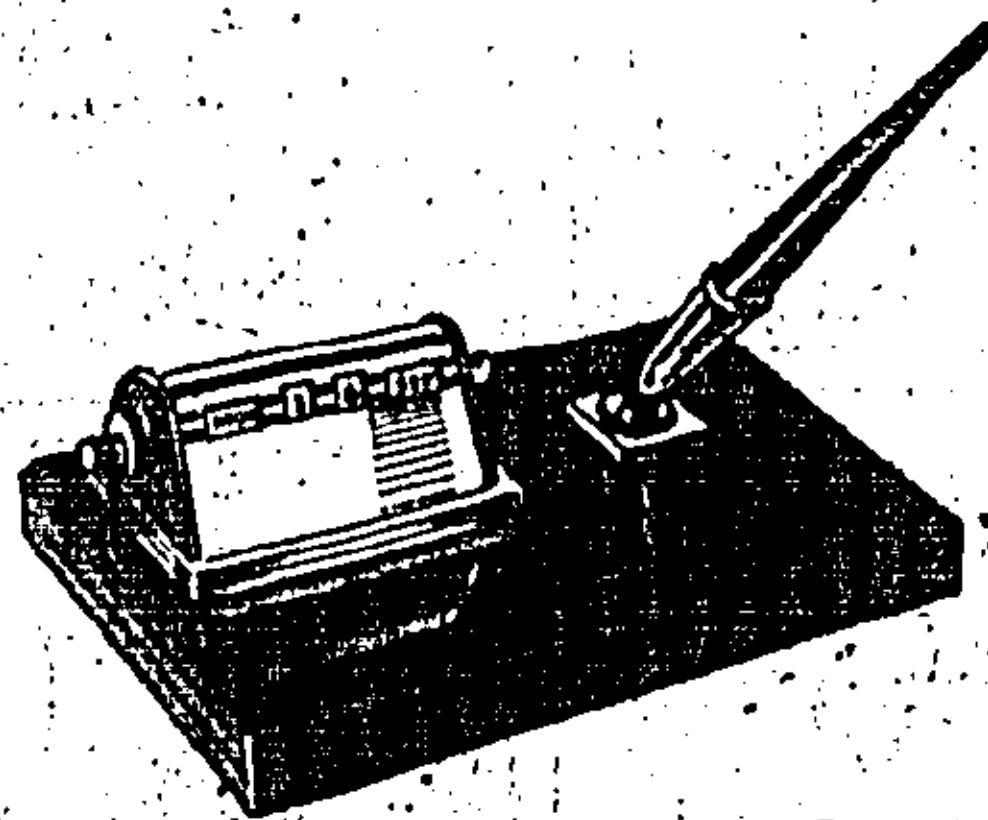
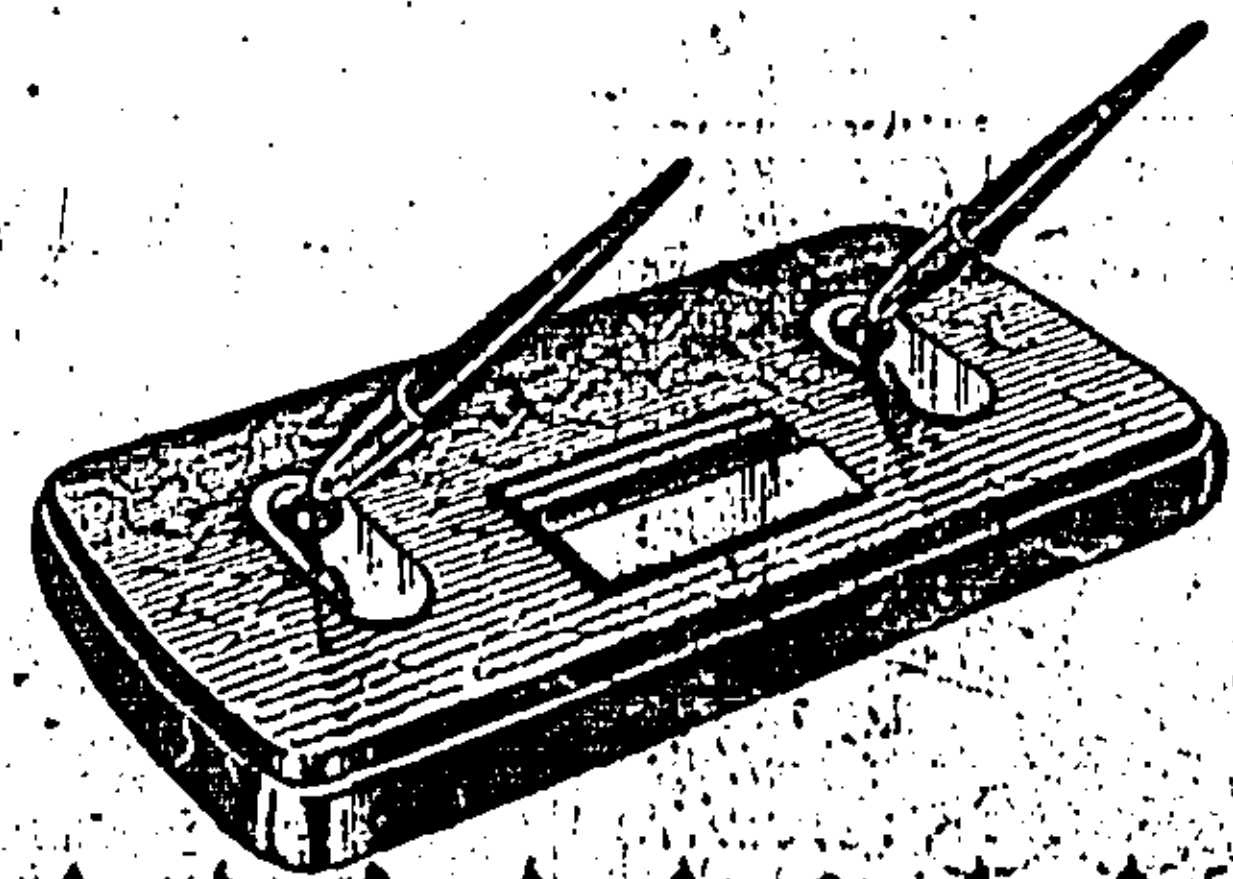
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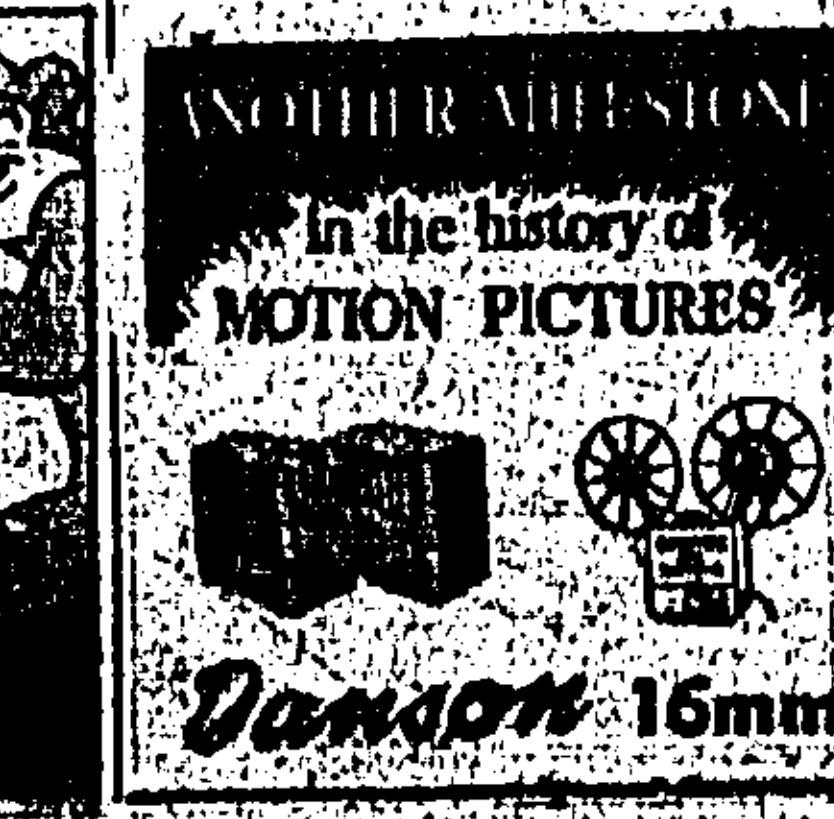


AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES IN A WIDE RANGE OF DESIGNS TO SUIT ALL TASTES.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer



By Robert L. May



Week-end Softball LEAGUE-LEADING S. CHINA MAY BE UPSET BY JAGUARS ON SUNDAY

By "KEYSTONE"

Highlight of a full softball week-end of 12 games will be the encounter between the pace-setting South China team and the teetering Jaguars. South China will go all out to stretch their slim lead in the hot pennant-chase, but Red Pereira's Jaguars may go into their old "jolting" act again, now that the pressure is off, and put in a few extra licks for good measure in partial settlement of a long-standing score with their old rivals.

While South China thus cast their pennant aspirations into the melting-pot, their closest contenders, the Braves, will go through the motions to snap up what should be easy pickings against the erratic US Navy squad. In the final Senior "A" Division game on Sunday, the Madcaps exchange blows with the next-to-last Chinese Athletics.

Another full programme is scheduled for the distant League, with all six teams billed to go through their paces on Sunday as they swing close to the final straight stretch of the race. The double-feature breakfast period matches the powerful Squaws against the awe-struck evergreen CAA girls, and the unbraten. Wahoo Nightbirds against Ella Chinn's South China starlets.

In another meal-time game at noon, Pool To will attempt to make two in a row against

Willie Woo's Panda girls. The Pandas have shown marked improvement in batting recently, and will certainly not allow as they swing close to the final straight stretch of the race.

BUSY WEEK-END

A busy week-end is also slated for Senior "B" Division teams, with the Rexes and the Wildfires playing both tomorrow and on Sunday in order to catch up with their game-schedule.

The Rexes play the present "cock-of-the-walk" Delaware tribe tomorrow and meet up with the second place Blackhaws on Sunday, while the Wildfires tangle with the Pandas and the scarlet-uniformed Americans.

Rival camp-followers will be out in droves to lend vociferous support to their favourites in the Jaguars-South China tilt at noon on Sunday.

At the moment, the Nam Wah outfit is calmly preening its feathers on the snug top perch of the Senior "A" League ladder, being ahead of Ed Carvalho's Braves by a slender games percentage margin.

The Chinese squad have played scintillating ball all the way, and there is little reason to expect any sudden performance drop.

Their only noticeable weakness is in the hitting department, but this is nothing new to opposing teams who know all about the Chinese boys' "ball-shyness". Willow-weakeness will be the major cumulative factor for any upset by the Jaguars in this interesting game.

On the other hand, the up-and-down Jaguars, still smarting from the stunning reversal of fortune in their game against the Pandas last week, may be expected to play a much superior brand of ball than heretofore, now that the pressure of the race is off their collective shoulders.

Meeting up again with an old and well-known enemy, the Jags may delve deep into their bag of tricks and dash up a gimmick or two that will prove disconcerting to South China. With fireballer Vic Pedruco on the mound and plenty of speed on the basepaths, the Jaguars are certain to make a rousing fight of it and South China had better look to their laurels.

The US Navy, barring sudden inclusion of new players, can hardly expect to put up serious opposition to the rampaging Braves on Sunday morning.

The Tribe, with dark thoughts of vengeance in their minds and fond hopes for the pennant in their hearts, have stolidly pitched camp just a little way downstream of the League-leading South China squad, and have

kept close and envious tab on the goings-on upstream.

The Tribe have been waiting with bated breath for their top rivals to make a false step on the up-climb, and, with an easy game on slate for this week, Big Chief Cervantes will be making "cheap big medicine" to throw a hex on the South China boys in their struggle with the Jaguar Cats.

The afternoon game pits the Madcaps against Frank Peon's Chinese Athletics in another four struggle, but for the opposite end of the ladder.

The Caps have made four false starts so far, while CAA have stumbled five times, and if the Chinese team has the Caps pinned down at the final gun, a very interesting three-way tie for the last place may develop, with sufficient, albeit unwilling, co-operation from the US Navy team.

On paper, with a more than average battery and a goodly number of heavy-swatters, the Caps have the better team. But individual ability and team performance are as far apart as first and third base, and the see-sawing antics of the Madcaps make any game forecast as unreliable as that for the weather.

THE PROGRAMME

TOMORROW
Junior Division: 2.30 p.m. Dodgers v. CAA; 3.30 p.m. Pandas v. Rexes.
Senior "B" Division: 4.00 p.m. Delaware v. Rexes; Pandas v. Wildfires.

SUNDAY
Ladies' Division: 9.30 a.m. CAA v. Squaws; Wahoos v. South China; 12.30 p.m. Pandas v. Pool To.

Senior "A" Division: 11.00 a.m. US Navy v. Braves; 12.30 p.m. Jaguars v. South China; 2.00 p.m. Madcaps v. CAA.
Senior "B" Division: 3.30 p.m. Rexes v. Blackhaws; Wildfires v. Americans.

CIVIL AID

No. 43. Orders issued by the Hon. C.E. Terry, Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, of December 19, 1952.

Greeters—The Hon. Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, wishes all officers and members of the Civil Aid Services a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year. He thanks them all for their enthusiastic and loyal support during the year.

Establishment—In exercise of powers conferred on him by the Civil Aid Services (Civil Aid Services) Regulations, 1952, the Hon. Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, has ordered the formation of the Communications Service as a sub-unit of the Civil Aid Services w.e.f. January 1, 1953.

Appointments—The Hon. Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, has made the following appointments: Mr. William Leslie Ernest Miller to be Controller, Communications Service, w.e.f. December 1, 1952; Mr. Douglas Searle Phelps to be Chief Rescue Officer, w.e.f. January 1, 1953.

Command Post Training, Hong Kong—There will be no further training for Hong Kong Command Post until January 9, 1953. Training will be as follows: No. 1 Watch—January 8, 1953; No. 2 Watch—January 15, 1953.

Command Post Training, Kowloon—Command Post Training, Kowloon, as per training programme, w.e.f. January 1, 1953.

WARDENS SERVICE—Orders issued by Lt. Col. H. Owen Hughes, OBE, ED, Chief Warden, of December 19, 1952.

Appointments—The Hon. Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, has made the following appointments: Mr. David Taylor to be Deputy Controller, Communications Service, w.e.f. January 1, 1953; Mr. Gerald Michael Weham to be Deputy Controller, Communications Service, w.e.f. January 1, 1953.

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HKRA SHOOT

The last practice shoot of the Hong Kong Rifle Association which was held at Kai Tak Ranges on Sunday attracted 45 members, in spite of the cold weather.

The following are the winners of Spoons in their respective classes:

S.R. (a) Class "B" — T. Buckley—90.
S.R. (a) Class "C" — Cpl. Ismail—90.

S.R. (b) Class "A" — K. V. Vian—94; Wm. Eu—92; K.C. Hoo—91 Handicap winner of Spoon.

S.A. (b) Class "B" — Cpl. N. Berryman—87.

There will be a Small Bore Rifle Competition on Sunday, December 21, for the Secretary's Challenge Shield and also the Colony's Teams competing for the National Small Bore Rifle Association Postal Matches 1952.

This will be held at the Hong Kong Gun Club Small Bore Range in the New Territories. The regular practice shoot scheduled for this day will be cancelled.

The next practice shoot will be held at Kai Tak on Sunday, January 4, 1953, at 9 a.m. Firing will be 300, 500 and 600 yards.

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"HUPEH"	Tientsin	10 p.m. 19th Dec.
"FENGNING"	Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	5 p.m. 19th Dec.
"SHENGKING"	Yokohama	3 p.m. 20th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	10 a.m. 22nd Dec.
"FUKIEN"	Djakarta, Semarang, Sourabaya & Macassar	Noon 24th Dec.
"ANKING"	Singapore, Penang & Belawan	Noon 25th Dec.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	3 p.m. 27th Dec.
"SZECHUEN"	Bangkok	5 p.m. 27th Dec.
"HANKANG"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	10 a.m. 31st Dec.
"HUNAN"	Tientsin	10 a.m. 1st Jan.

ARRIVALS FROM

"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	19th Dec.
"ANKING"	Kobe	7 a.m. 21st Dec.
"FUKIEN"	Kobe	23/24th Dec.
"FUNGING"	Indonesia & Bintan	24th Dec.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 25th Dec.
"SZECHUEN"	Kobe	25th Dec.
"HANKANG"	Bangkok	28/29th Dec.
"HUNAN"	Tientsin	29th Dec.
"YOKIOW"	Singapore	31st Dec.

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SAILINGS TO		
"TAIPING"	Sydney & Melbourne	27th Dec.
"CHANGTIE"	Kure & Kobe	31st Dec.
"TAIYUAN"	Japan	2nd Jan.

ARRIVALS FROM

"TAIPING"	Kobe	25th Dec.
"CHANGTIE"	Australia & Manila	28th Dec.
"TAIYUAN"	Australia & Manila	29th Dec.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails		
G. "PERSEUS"	Liverpool	Sailed
G. "AENEAS"	do	do
G. "ASCANIUS"	do	do
G. "AGAFENOR"	do	do
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	do
G. "CALCHAS"	do	do
G. "AUTOMEDON"	25th Dec.	do
G. "ATREUS"	5th Jan.	do

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool.

S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool.

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DE LA RAMA LINES

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"DONA NATI"	30th Dec.
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"BATAAN"	20th Dec.
"MENESTHEUS"	20th Jan.

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

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HK/Bangkok/Singapore (DC-4)	7:30 a.m. Mon, Thurs. 6:45 a.m. Tues, Fri.	
HK/Tientsin (DC-3)	6:45 a.m. Tues. 4:45 p.m. Tues.	
HK/Hatphong (DC-3)	6:45 a.m. Thurs. 4:15 p.m. Thurs.	
HK/Singapore (DC-4)	10:45 a.m. Tues. 6:45 p.m. Wed.	
HK/Manila/B.N. Borneo (DC-3)	7:15 a.m. Tues, Fri. 4:45 p.m. Wed, Sat.	

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ARRIVALS

FROM	DUE
"BENREOCH"	U.K. In Port.
"BENRINNES"	U.K. via Singapore on or abt. 24th Dec.
"KING MALCOLM"	U.K. via Singapore 5th Jan.
"BENVENUE"	Japan 8th Jan.
"BENALBANACH"	U.K. via Singapore 17th Jan.
"BENATTOW"	U.K. via Singapore 18th Jan.
"BENREOCH"	U.K. 2nd Feb.

SAILINGS

TO	LOADING ON OR ABT.
"BENREOCH"	Kure, Kobe and Yokohama, 20th Dec.
"BENRINNES"	Havre, London and Rotterdam, 28th Dec.
"BENVENUE"	Direct to Singapore, thence Liverpool, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg, 6th Jan.
"BENALBANACH"	A. v. o. n. o. t. b. Liverpool, Glasgow, and Antwerp, 10th Jan.
"BENREOCH"	Direct to Singapore, thence Genoa, London, Hull and Hamburg, 20th Jan.
"BENATTOW"	Kure, Kobe and Yokohama, 21st Jan.
"BENREOCH"	Direct to Singapore, thence Havre, London, Rotterdam and Hull, 5th Feb.

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3620.

Damaged packages are to be left

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vectors. Messrs. Carmichael and

Clarke, at 10 a.m. on the 19th Decem-

ber, 1952.

To comply with the General Bond-

ed Warehouse Regulations, consignees

must have a Revenue Officer in at-

tendance when damaged dutiable

goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after

the goods have left the steamer's

godown, and all goods remaining

undelivered after the 20th Decem-

ber, 1952, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must

be presented to the undersigned on

or before the 8th January, 1953, or

they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents

Hongkong, 10th December, 1952.

Lost Woman Found Dead In Grave

London, Dec. 18.

Walking through Ilford

Borough Cemetery, his head bent

against the driving rain, the

foreman of the cemetery passed

an open, newly dug grave—and

jumped back.

Lying in the grave was a body,

mis-recognized by the rain.

Crouching to look more

closely, the man discovered the

body of a woman.

He ran back to his lodge, got

in touch with the police. They

identified the woman, Mrs. Annie

Gertrude Bowring, aged 68, of

Morgan-avenue, Walthamstow,

who disappeared four days ago.

Mrs. Bowring had set out to

visit a relative in Rushden-

garden, Barking, Essex.

She did not arrive.

Police are seeking an explana-

tion of how the woman got into

the 5ft. deep grave, which was

entirely covered with heavy

planks to await a burial next

week.

The cause of death and how

long the woman's body had been

in the grave have still to be

established.

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"MONKAY" Jan. 8 Jan. 8 N. Africa & Europe
"BREST" Feb. 9 Feb. 10 N. Africa & Europe
"LA MARSEILLAISE" Feb. 12 Feb. 15 Marseilles via Manila

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Arrives Dec. 21 from Singapore.
Sails Dec. 22 Kobe, Hirohata, Yawata, Osaka & Kobe.

"NOREVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 25 from Manila.
Sails Dec. 26 for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta.

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Swedish Aid For Ceylon

Colombo, Dec. 18. Pre-fabricated housing has been given special attention in a trade agreement reached between Sweden and Ceylon.

Sweden is one of the pioneer countries in the development of pre-fabricated housing to suit modern needs and has economized on the cost of constructing buildings for various purposes, including hospitals. Sweden has now agreed to provide the necessary technical advice and aid to Ceylon.

One of the first public institutions which will be constructed out of pre-fabricated materials will be the Colombo South Hospital for which estimates are now being worked out.

Sweden has also agreed to grant all export facilities for shipping tea chests to Ceylon. She has also undertaken to make available experts and advisers from Swedish private institutions and enterprises in connection with development projects in Ceylon.

An assurance has been given that Swedish exporters will make efforts to increase their deliveries of machinery, tools and equipment for mining, agricultural and electrical development and for new industrial plants.

Sweden is interested in Ceylon products such as tea, rubber, rubber latex, copra, coconut fibre, cocoa, desiccated coconut, coconut oil and graphite.

United Press.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$269,789.40. Noon prices and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS: HK Bank ... 1410 1430

INSURANCES: Union ... 7714

SHIPPING: Asia Nav. ... 1.40 1.60

DOCKS, ETC.: N. P. Wharf 6.45 6.55 100 6 10.5

President ... 12.00 13 200 12 12.5

Wheelock ... 30 100 30 30.5

(RHS) ... 10.20 100 10 10.80

LAND, ETC.: HK Hotel (7.5) 1000 7 7.10

HK Hotel (7.5) 50 50 50 50.5

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Electric (O) 23 100 23 23.5

C. Light (N) 23 100 23 23.5

Electric ... 23.30 23.40 1000 23 23.40

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Walson ... 24.30 100 24 24.30

COTTONS: Two ... 1.30

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:

U.S. dollar (per 100) ... 6.025

Swedish note (per 100) ... 13.70

Indonesian guilders (per 100) ... 23.20

Siam baht (per 100) ... 23.20

Singapore (Straits) ... 18.20

RIC piastres (per 100) ... 11.00

NY Metal Market

New York, Dec. 18. Prices in the metal market closed unchanged with the following exception:—Beryllium (10-12 per cent) per ton \$45-48.—United Press.

Barter Pact To Be Extended?

Tokyo, Dec. 18. The Japan-Russia Trade Promotion Council is to propose a six-month extension of the current \$60,000,000 barter trade agreement with Peking.

The agreement, signed in June expires on December 31. No transactions have been recorded under the barter agreement which went into effect on July 1. The Trade Council will officially present a proposal to the Chinese Communist Government after its conference on December 15.—France-Press.

Anglo-Japanese Talks

To Be Postponed Till February

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

Formal Anglo-Japanese trade talks for the extension of the existing payments agreement would be postponed until around February in Tokyo, sources close to the Japanese Government predicted tonight.

The same sources said that the postponement would be made in order to know before the talks the results of the recent British Commonwealth Ministers' conference and the proposed meeting between Britain and the United States over Sterling convertibility.

In the meantime, however, an informal exchange of views will be held beginning from next week between the two countries on the relaxation of the import restrictions enforced on Japanese goods by the Commonwealth nations.

Although the current agreement expires at the end of this month, the fundamental issues will remain pending until February.—France-Press.

CRISIS PREDICTED

Osaka, Dec. 18.

Local financiers predict an industrial crisis from January to March next.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry warned that crisis was now creeping into various branches of industry slowly but steadily.

It pointed out that loans had been asked mainly to cope with growing piles of unsold goods and not for expanding business.

Apparently less affected, however, were the steel and electric industries.

Hardest hit are the smaller businessmen who are increasingly depending on illegal money lenders because of cash shortage.—France-Press.

PRICE ADJUSTMENT

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

The Government will enforce a special iron and steel price adjustment system in the forthcoming fiscal year to supply these metals at prices corresponding to international level.

Mr. Taiji Ashizawa, Director of the Iron Heavy Industry Bureau, told the International Trade and Industry Committee of the Lower House yesterday.

Mr. Ashizawa revealed that the system was originally aimed at lowering prices of ships built for abroad but it would also benefit heavy industries.

The shipbuilding programme for the coming fiscal year included construction of 300,000 tons for domestic use and 200,000 tons for foreign use.

This would require between 300,000 and 350,000 tons of rolled steel.

The system to be enforced is to roll steels for shipbuilding at a platform price—France-Press.

DECLINE IN PRICES

Tokyo, Dec. 18.

The price of major commodities in Japan generally went down nearer to the American level in October, according to a survey conducted by the Economic Council Board.

The disparity became narrower in October for iron and steel while it widened more for textiles and chemical products.

The Japanese price of pig-iron dropped from 1.46 times the American price in September to 1.42, steel sheets from 1.53 to 1.59, steel bars from 1.15 to 1.13.

Japanese prices of silk rayon yarn and cotton yarn went down further below the American level. Rayon dropped from 70 per cent of the American price in September to 70 and cotton yarn from 81 to 70 per cent.—France-Press.

LONDON RUBBER

London, Dec. 18.

The rubber market was quiet today. Prices closed as follows:

Number 1 rubber, in pieces per lb. ... 25 1/2

January ... 25 1/2

February ... 25 1/2

March ... 25 1/2

January/February ... 25 1/2

July/September ... 25 1/2

United Press.

Defence And Budget: Satisfaction Over Cut In Arms Output

London, Dec. 18.

Mr. Churchill's statement on changes in the defence programme confirmed what had already been expected, declares the "Financial Times."

Expenditure on production is to be cut in volume—though the cost will be about the same next year as it is this year.

Part of the cut is to fall on the aircraft industry where, in Mr. Churchill's own words, "it is better to slow down production of weapons which are being superseded by new and better types in order to be more ahead later on."

Part of it is to be made effective by stretching the existing planned programme still further into the future.

From the point of view of industry some of the effect of these changes will be neutralised by sales of arms to our allies; in a more important sense they will release resources for the expansion of exports.

The balance of payments, to quote Mr. Churchill again, has been not "a decisive but at any rate an important factor" in determining the changes. Though it is foreseen that the result of these cuts in the programme may be to produce some unemployment, the Government hopes that this will rapidly be taken up in expanding exports.

THE CHANGES. While it settles the policy of the rearmament programme, however, it opens up in a new and more serious form the related problem of its finance.

Mr. Churchill gave figures for the cost of the defence programme which seemed to dispose of any hope that the Budget could be relieved to any significant extent by these changes.

Both these figures will have to be increased slightly to include the supplementary estimates which will be presented and the cuts in the production programme will do no more than hold the cost of production at or about this year's level.

If there is to be any net saving on defence, in terms of finance, it will, therefore, have to come out of the rest of the programme—namely the cost of maintenance and pay.

It was made clear, however, that no great reduction in numbers can or should be contemplated—in fact, the armed forces commitments show no sign of being reduced; and the trend of maintenance costs is always upward.

AN ACHIEVEMENT. Even if there should be any saving in this part of the rearmament programme it will almost certainly be offset by the cost of the army in Germany which after June 30 next year will fall wholly on the British Budget.

In 1951-52 the cost of this army was running at around £150m. and it has almost certainly risen since then.

Mr. Butler has promised that the defence estimates will not exceed the special scrutiny to which he is subjecting all estimates for 1953-54.

Indeed, he has spoken as though they may be expected to be pruned with special severity. Nevertheless, in the light of these figures, it looks as though it will be an achievement if defence expenditure in the Budget of 1953-54 is kept at the overall level of that for 1952-53—a level incidentally which already took account of American aid.

STABLE COSTS. It seems very much as if the Chancellor will be faced with stable defence costs, rising social service expenditure and falling revenue.

Not only will he have to try to make the best of these extremely awkward materials, but he will probably also have a Budget deficit to close as well.

It is becoming more and more clear that the central domestic problem which the Government faces that of bringing public expenditure under the same effective discipline as that which has been imposed on private expenditure. Without that none of the improvement that the Government's financial policy has achieved can be looked on as lasting, the "Financial Times" concludes.

More Steel For Industry. Washington, Dec. 17. The Government today increased the steel allocations to industry, after the start of the Korean war, to 70 per cent of pre-Korean levels in the second quarter of next year.

The allocations were the largest since the Government began rationing steel materials to industry after the start of the Korean war to make sure there were adequate supplies for defence.

Copper and aluminium allocations were held to about half of the pre-Korean levels because of the continuing copper shortage and aluminium production in the drought-stricken areas where power is short.

United Press.

Shortage Of Bricks In Britain. London, Dec. 18. Britain's housing drive—given a big push when the Conservative Party won the 1951 general election on a platform of increasing housing programmes—is going so well the nation is running out of bricks.

Builders have pushed themselves more than the men making bricks.

As a result, brick stocks now are at the all-time low of 123,000,000—about a week's supply.

Brick output is running at around 822,000,000 a month, the highest since the war, but until very recently builders were using bricks faster than they could be produced.

Current cold weather is likely to slow down building operations—owing to snow and rain. But brick production may be cut, too.

Unbaked bricks cannot be stacked in the open during a frost, which destroys the quality of the clay. And many brickfields have no protected place to stack bricks awaiting firing.

It may be some time before current plans mature to push brick output to the pre-war level of 7,700,000,000 a year. The 1953 output is not expected to be more than 6,700,000,000 bricks.

Associated Press.

Austrian Hopes For Trade With Nationalists

Taipei, Dec. 18.

Herr Carl Babeler, head of a five-man Austrian economic and trade mission, envisages a flourishing trade between his country and Taiwan being developed, and hopes that such a direct commercial relationship with Taiwan would mark the turning point for the resumption of normal relationship between Nationalist China and his country.

Herr Babeler, Counsellor of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, revealed this when his mission met with members of the Taipei Importers and Exporters Guild to exchange views for the establishment of trade between the two countries.

Herr Tomicki, a senior official of the Austrian Ministry of Finance, said that his country was in need of such Taiwan products as orange peel, citronella oil, pepper, tea and canned foods. Taiwan sugar and feathers were suggested as possible items which might find a market in Austria, especially the latter item, which Austria is now importing from Australia.

The other three members of the mission, representing Austrian industries, offered Austrian steel, iron, electric apparatus, medical equipment, and chemicals to the Taiwan importers.

The mission arrived here last week for a 10-day survey to explore the Taiwan market. However, nothing tangible has yet been decided.

The Austrian trade mission proposed at a meeting yesterday that a triangular trade could be worked out, by which Austrian machinery would be sold to Taiwan importers, who could in turn sell them to other destinations.

The mission is to leave Taiwan at the end of this week for Bangkok to continue on its worldwide survey tour.—France-Press.

Stuck With Japanese Textiles. Singapore, Dec. 18. Many Singapore textile dealers who imported about \$21,000,000 worth of Japanese cloth for re-export are finding difficulty in disposing it due to dwindled demand from Indonesia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries, according to the British-owned newspaper, Singapore Free Press, today.

The Trade Advisory Panel has rejected their request for immediate sale of the goods in Malaya but has recommended to the Government that they may be allowed for sale in the local market 30 days after the issue of the 1953 quota for import of Japanese textiles.

The Panel also recommended that the goods be set off against the 1953 quota due to individual firms concerned.

The Government is considering the recommendations, and it was announced last week that Japanese textiles—worth \$335 million—would be allowed into the Colony during the first half of next year.—Reuter.

More Steel For Industry

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The allocations were the largest since the Government began rationing steel materials to industry after the start of the Korean war to make sure there were adequate supplies for defence.

Copper and aluminium allocations were held to about half of the pre-Korean levels because of the continuing copper shortage and aluminium production in the drought-stricken areas where power is short.

United Press.

LONDON TIN MARKET

London, Dec. 18. The tin market was firmer this morning. Turnover was 30 tons, including five tons for cash. Prices closed at the end of the official morning session as follows:

Best tin, buyers ... 25 1/2

Spot tin, sellers ... 25 1/2

Business done at ... 25 1/2

Three-month tin, sellers ... 25 1/2

Business done at ... 25 1/2

Settlement ... 25 1/2

United Press.

ROYAL INTEROCEAN LINES

Ship	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30	Dec. 31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17	Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 20	Jan. 21	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Jan. 24	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Jan. 27	Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 5	Feb. 6	Feb. 7	Feb. 8	Feb. 9	Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	Feb. 14	Feb. 15	Feb. 16	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	Feb. 29	Feb. 30	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 3	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 6	Mar. 7	Mar. 8	Mar. 9	Mar. 10	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Mar. 24	Mar. 25	Mar. 26	Mar. 27	Mar. 28	Mar. 29	Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 1	Apr. 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 4	Apr. 5	Apr. 6	Apr. 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 10	Apr. 11	Apr. 12	Apr. 13	Apr. 14	Apr. 15	Apr. 16	Apr. 17	Apr. 18	Apr. 19	Apr. 20	Apr. 21	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	Jun. 1	Jun. 2	Jun. 3	Jun. 4	Jun. 5	Jun. 6	Jun. 7	Jun. 8	Jun. 9	Jun. 10	Jun. 11	Jun. 12	Jun. 13	Jun. 14	Jun. 15	Jun. 16	Jun. 17	Jun. 18	Jun. 19	Jun. 20	Jun. 21	Jun. 22	Jun. 23	Jun. 24	Jun. 25	Jun. 26	Jun. 27	Jun. 28	Jun. 29	Jun. 30	Jul. 1	Jul. 2	Jul. 3	Jul. 4	Jul. 5	Jul. 6	Jul. 7	Jul. 8	Jul. 9	Jul. 10	Jul. 11	Jul. 12	Jul. 13	Jul. 14	Jul. 15	Jul. 16	Jul. 17	Jul. 18	Jul. 19	Jul
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UN Delegate Seriously Injured

United Nations, Dec. 18: Dr. Julius Katz-Suchy, leading Polish delegate to the United Nations, was seriously injured today when his car ran into an iron support of a New York bridge.

With him in the car was Miss Sophia Artymowska, a 29-year-old Polish correspondent.

Mr. Katz-Suchy fractured his skull and suffered multiple cuts.

His woman companion received numerous cuts and possible concussion of the brain.

Mr. Katz-Suchy, 41, once called the "stormy petrel" of United Nations debates, has been a member of the Polish delegation since 1947.

He was a member of the Polish government in exile in London, but later changed his views and joined the Communist government of Lublin.

Hospital authorities reported later that Mr. Katz-Suchy was on the "seriously ill list, but doing fairly well."—Reuter.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK The First Offender

COUNSEL said in a solemn voice: "This woman appears to have gone about her stealing in an organised fashion..." and Ada... in the dock at Great Marlborough Street, seemed to shrink still further into the heavy grey overcoat she wore.

"She visited three counters and stole, as you have heard, these five articles," counsel for the store continued; and the magistrate, Mr. Paul Bennett, VC, sat back listening gravely as the story of Ada's crime was told.

Ada had pleaded guilty to stealing five remnants, one of royal blue velvet, the others of lace in blue and black and apple green; the lot were valued by the store she robbed at £2.05. 11d.

SHE is a short, stocky woman, who was so well wrapped up against the weather that she gave you the impression of being wrapped up against adversity as well; as if the hat tight on her head, the coat buttoned up to the throat, the woollen gloves and snow-boots could somehow protect her against misfortune.

"No, sir. She has a son abroad with one of the Services, and he allows her 18s. a week, and then she tells me she does odd sewing, but she can't tell me how much that brings her, just odd amounts, I think, not very much."

"So her income is..."

"Just the £2.14s. a week, I think sir."

The magistrate nodded, and he turned to Ada. "What do you want to say about this?" he asked her.

"Nothing, nothing," Ada said into her small, lace-edged handkerchief.

"OUR courts can't overlook this kind of theft," said the magistrate. "It is systematic. The sentence of this court is that you go to prison for 14 days. I hope that your son never hears of this. There is no reason why he should."

The magistrate's last words of small comfort were lost upon Ada, I think. She was not after all well enough wrapped up against adversity; she had crumpled up, still silent, and the gaoler had to carry her from the court unconscious.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"She's been struggling for days with her Christmas list—she knows so many boys, and isn't sure which ones will send her presents!"

Prison For Two Soldiers Who Robbed A Taxi Driver

Two 19-year-old soldiers, James Patrick Hallem Dowling, of the FMA, Shamshuipo, and Thomas Arthur William Richardson, of the Royal Engineers, were sent to prison for three years and eight months at the Criminal Sessions this morning when they pleaded guilty to robbing a taxi driver in Kowloon, with aggravation.

When Mr Justice Williams passed sentence, there was also in the dock Im Fat, 22, on a similar charge in connection with another robbery in which the victim was a taxi driver.

In giving the Chinese four years, his Lordship said that the only material difference between the cases was that the Chinese had actually wounded the driver with a dagger whereas, in the soldiers' case, although they had a steel paper cutter they did not make use of it. He also took into consideration the soldiers' youth.

Dowling and Richardson said that they bitterly regretted what they had done. It was not a planned crime and they would like to apologise to everybody connected with the case for the trouble they had caused.

Presenting the case against the military men, who pleaded guilty to robbing a taxi driver of £78 and an ignition key, Mr Patrick Yu, Crown Counsel, said that at about 2 a.m. on October 14 the accused hailed a taxi in Nathan Road and then drove to Kadoorie Avenue where they attacked the driver, Richardson, held him by the neck from behind while Dowling threatened him with the steel weapon. The accused ran and were caught after a fairly long chase.

At the Police Station when they were charged they were completely sober and quite in control of their faculties.

TESTIFYING FOR DOWLING, Lt. J. F. G. J. Hole, Lieutenant-Quartermaster and acting Administrative Officer of FMA, said that he was a telephone operator and he (witness) felt very sorry for him as Dowling suffered an inferiority complex. He had not been to Kowloon. His education was normal and apart from one lapse his character had been good and, in witness's assessment, very good. Dowling was a non-drinker.

Witness added that Dowling was the son of divorced parents and his father was an Army officer. A brother was commissioned. They were prepared to take Dowling back in the unit.

Speaking for Richardson, Capt. A. M. Packer, RE, said that he was employed as a cook. He had been seven months with the unit and his military record was fair. His mother was dead and he had been living with his stepfather before joining the Army last year.

Richardson was honest, sober, trustworthy and a willing worker but below average intelligence tending to be very easily persuaded.

He worked extremely well under supervision and the unit was prepared to take him back.

Mr Yu said that both men refused legal aid and were represented by Mr. Williams.

Major Williams, of the Army Legal Aid Service, was present during the proceedings.

Living Language

Why we say, Subtle.
This word is difficult to use correctly because it can mean clever, or cunning, or just fine and delicate. It comes from the Latin words *Sub-tela*, which mean "under the web", and convey an impression both of the spider's cunning and of its delicate web.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office.

Latest posting times for registered articles (which may be sent by air) can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

Notification has been received from the U.S. Post Office that letters, etc. posted in the U.S.A. between December 1-31 (inclusive) for Hongkong which were included in a sea mail sent from San Francisco on December 19 on the S.S. "Fortnam" must be presumed lost.

4 YEARS FOR WOUNDING

"There are far too many cases of people who, just because of a slight grudge against another person, make use of a weapon such as a chopper or a knife. I must treat the offence seriously," commented Mr Justice Williams in the Criminal Sessions this morning when he sentenced Lam Wing, 25, unemployed, to four years for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Mr Patrick Yu, Crown Counsel, said that the complainant, Chu Chak-chai, was a copper-smith living at 75 Tong Mei Road with the defendant and two other men. The complainant and defendant had a row over a trivial matter, and while he was asleep the complainant was stabbed four times by the defendant with a scissor blade.

One of the wounds in the arm had caused a dropped wrist and the doctor was unable to say at the present whether the injury would be of a permanent nature.

Accused explained that he wanted a quilt and the complainant objected.

LENT CAR TO WRONG PERSON

Mrs Hilda Pauline Bradford, owner of Private Car 3667, was fined \$25 by Mr D. F. O'Reilly Mayne at Kowloon this morning for allowing her car to be driven by another person without a licence.

Defendant said in Court that she did not know that the person she allowed to use the car was not permitted to drive a private car because he was a driver in the Services.

L.A.C. Walters pleaded guilty to driving the car without a licence; without having the third party risk insurance; and driving the car in a manner dangerous to the public while along La Salle Road on December 17.

He pleaded not guilty to the charge of driving the car without the owner's consent.

He was remanded for 24 hours. Insp. W. J. B. Cameron prosecuted.

Failed To Pay For Meal, Taxi

L.A.C. Ronald Loy, who was charged with obtaining credit by fraud, was remanded in R.A.F. custody for three days by Mr. D. F. O'Reilly Mayne at Kowloon this morning.

According to the Prosecution, defendant went to the Nam Fong Restaurant at Prince Edward Road where he ordered two beers and a plate of fried rice costing \$4.70 which he did not pay when he left.

Defendant then boarded a taxi in Hop Lee Road and drove to the vicinity of the Kowloon City Police Station without paying the fare of \$1.60. The taxi driver reported the matter to the Police Station and later two Police Constables located defendant near the Kowloon Hospital.

The Bey Signs A Decree

Tunis, Dec. 18: The Bey of Tunis, today unexpectedly signed his seal to one of the decrees which he had refused to sign earlier this week.

The decree provided special advantages for employment of Tunisian ex-servicemen in the Tunisian administration.

Sources close to the Palace thought that the Bey might also have affixed his seal to other decrees "as a gesture of conciliation," but no further confirmation was available.—Reuter.

Assembly's 'No' To Resolution

United Nations, Dec. 18: The General Assembly today voted against a resolution calling on Jews and Arabs to negotiate directly to resolve their differences as soon as possible.

The Assembly, defeated by 24 to 21 with 10 abstentions, a resolution passed by the Special Political Committee calling on both sides to negotiate.

The resolution called for the required two-thirds majority.—Reuter.

5 Years For Man With Hot Temper

Described by the Prosecution as being hot-tempered, Pun Mei was given five years and ordered to receive ten strokes of the cane by Mr Justice Williams at the Criminal Sessions this morning when he admitted wounding his sister-in-law, Cheng Kit-ching, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The weapon used was an axe and her face was badly cut.

Mr Patrick Yu, Crown Counsel, said the woman lived at 45, Gough Street. The defendant seemed to be hot-tempered and whenever he lost his job he vented his temper on the rest of the household.

At midnight on June 21, he attacked the woman with an axe striking her head, face and arm.

The accused was 44 and was born in Hongkong.

Asked to explain his actions, the accused said that that night he went out for supper and drank too much.

Mr Yu said that when charged the accused made no mention of drinking but merely said, "I will speak in Court."

Counterfeiter Sentenced

Li Chun, aged 65, a former goldsmith, was given three years and six months by Mr Justice Williams at the Criminal Sessions this morning for counterfeiting HK\$ 10-cent coins possession of instruments for the purpose and possession of six counterfeit coins.

Mr Patrick Yu, Crown Counsel, said that on the night of October 8, the Police, acting on information, went to a hut at Pak Po Lai village, Shamshuipo, and found the accused in the act of making the coins. Among the instruments seized were hammers, blowpipes and a metal work bench.

Accused stated that the instruments had been left in the hut.

Replying to his Lordship, Counsel said that there were not many of these forged coins floating about. The ones the accused made were not good.

His Lordship told the accused that it was a very serious offence because the ordinary poor person was defrauded; not the wealthy ones.

GENERAL AIREY BEREAVED

Mr. E. Airey, father of Ling Gen, Sir Thomas Airey, Commander British Forces, Hongkong, died at Holbrook, Suffolk, on Wednesday. He was over 80 years of age, and leaving a widow.

Away From It All

Port Elizabeth, Dec. 18: A Port Elizabeth man who declares that he is "weary of national and international hypocrisies and the eternal dogfight of party politics," is organising a scheme to establish the self-sufficient colony of selected South Africans on a South Pacific island.

He does not wish to disclose his name at present but says that some people have answered his newspaper advertisement inviting volunteers to join him.

He wants persons of integrity, especially those interested in the arts and sciences. The primary qualifications are a valid reason for "getting away from it all" for good; an ability to pull one's weight and assist in organising; and a willingness to pool £2,000 or more for the common good.

His idea is to write to Mr Tugi, Prime Minister of the Tonga Islands, to secure the lease of one of the smaller islands in the group. The island he proposes to go to is in the South Pacific, about four days sailing from New Zealand.

—Reuter.

Will Spend Xmas Day With Troops

New York, Dec. 18: Francis Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic Prelate of New York, left by air today to spend Christmas day with American troops in Korea.

He said he would conduct three Christmas day masses for the men and added: "I am going to Korea bearing with me messages of love from hundreds of American families."

The Cardinal said he was taking 100,000 cigarettes for the troops from the people at home.—Reuter.



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XMAS DANCE

With balloons and crackers making the evening a festive affair, more than a hundred and twenty people enjoyed themselves at the "Officers' Christmas Dance" in the Peninsula Hotel last night, organised by Mrs W. G. Robertson for the Forces Civilian Entertainment Committee.

A dance is arranged each month, when a certain number of officers are made available to the Junior Officers of every regiment in the Colony, and partners for them are invited by Mrs Robertson.

INTELLIGENCE TEST SOLUTION

London Express Service